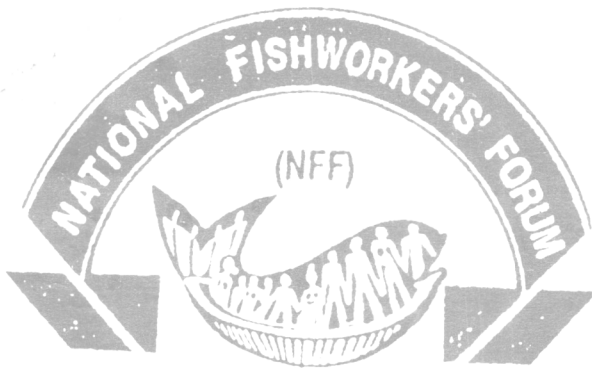


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NATIONAL FISHWORKERS FORUM



nff reports - 1998

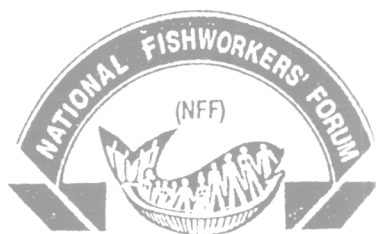
National Office : National Fishworkers Forum,
Velankanny Junction, Valiyathura,
Thiruvananthapuram, KERALA

/Fax : 0471-501376, E-mail : nff@md2.vsnl.net.in

NATIONAL FISHWORKERS FORUM (nff)

(a federation of state level trade unions in india)

Reports -1998



National Fishworkers Forum,
Velankanny Junction, Valiyathura,
Thiruvananthapuram, KERALA.

Ph / Fax: 0471 501376; Email nff@md2.vsnl.net.in



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FOREWORD

We are happy to present this years report of the National Fishworkers Forum. 1998 gave a new status and new responsibilities to NFF being the founder member of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers. The red letter day during the year was the celebration of the World Fisheries Day on November 21. As seen from the state reports there was a variety of celebrations and conventions which declared struggle against destructive fishing gears, water pollution, coastal industrial aquaculture and for protecting fishing communities and fish consumers. The happiest news came when Mr. Bill Clinton President of United States formally declared November 21 as World Fisheries Day.

Inspite of the struggle for implementation of the Supreme Court judgement on aquaculture the government was trying to evade the implementation by passing the aquaculture authority bill. A nation wide survey and mapping of the CRZ Violations was one of the successful move to convince the authorities to implement the CRZ Notification.

The state wide struggle to include women and Inland fishworkers in savings-cum- relief scheme continued for 15 days. This showed the courage and perseverance of our women leaders.

As you go through the pages of this report you will see the detailed descriptions of the various struggles spearheaded by NFF.

I express my thanks and gratitude to all those who helped to publish this report and all constituent unions and leaders for preparing the report. I also thank Mr. Maju Varghese, Ms Philomine Marie, Leelama and St. Mary's press Thiruvananthapuram for publishing the report in time.

HAREKRISHNA DEBNATH
(Chairperson)

NATIONAL FISHWORKERS FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT - 1998

INTRODUCTION

1998 will be remembered as "A year of fisherpeople" for assertion of their political existence all over the world. Indian fisherpeople will be remembered as pioneers in giving leadership in the organization of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers as well as celebration of World Fisheries Day. Indian fisherpeople is giving leadership in the struggle for sustainable fisheries through small and artisanal fisheries. At the same time it is paradoxical to see that the very same India is organizing Industrial Aquaculture world meet. Here, the government of India in collaboration with the Multi National companies is giving leadership for the proliferation of industrial aquaculture in the international level. In the domestic front, inspite of the supreme court verdict against industrial aquaculture the Government of India and the bureaucrats are working overtime to thwart the supreme court judgement.

Different sections and sectors of fisheries were under different Ministries at the centre which created lot of troubles and complications. It has always been a major concern for the fisher people and we kept on demanding to bring all sectors of fishery under a separate Ministry of "Fisheries. It is through the assertion of the fisher people's power, 'all subjects concerning fisheries' except processing, export and education have been transferred to the department of Animal husbandry and Dairying under the ministry of Agriculture. Ministries of Food processing Industries, Commerce and environment and forest are taking care of processing, exports and pollution control aspects respectively. This is a big step forward, towards an independent Ministry of Fisheries but before we could rejoice for this achievement, at the same (new) Ministry instead of strengthening and expanding the co-operations with the fisher people, cancelled the NFACAJV representative committee constituted by the ministry of Food processing industries to work, with the authorities for the implementation of the murari committee recommendations. This hurried action of the new ministry is a very clear indication of the attitude of the people at the helm of affairs of fisheries of the country. These are the major partners in sponsoring the World aquaculture meet in New Delhi.

It is in this paradoxical situation the fisher people are struggling to secure their livelihood. to conserve the resource base, and to protect the seas and the coasts from the onslaught of ecocidal activities. The downward tendency of catch per unit is not showing any significant sign of recovery. We are yet to get the official figures of landing. Northern Maharashtra and upper east coast fishermen reported a better catch than last years, but ironically natural calamities deprived them from the benefits of this. Moreover the world wide economic depression, embargo of EU on imports of sea products from India drastically lowered the fish price. This resulted into a very low income for the fisher people compared to the previous years. Their hardship has been further compounded by the unprecedented high price of essential commodities. The WTO is showing its teeth and the unforsighted leap into the boggy of globalization is taking its toll.

DOCUMENTATION OF CRZ VIOLATIONS

When the PEW foundation award was announced, the major actions envisaged, was the documentation of CRZ violations in India and mangrove afforestation in our coasts. But when the award was declined we had hesitations in taking up the task of documentation. In fact NFF General Body '97 in Mumbai gave us a boost to go ahead with the program. It was because of the determined effort of Mr. Nandakumar and Mr. Murali Krishnan that we were able to continue this sustained effort. About 200 youngsters were trained in 3 camps at Chungangadai(Kanyakumari) Diamond Harbour and Valsad. Through their sustained efforts we have completed the gigantic task of documentation. We are sure this documents, when completed will be a golden treasure of information's and references. It will be an eye opener for the fishing community, media, elites and Governments. We should be able to use this document to work out the future agitational plans. We should also consider the possibilities of filing number of cases in different courts. We request the General body to discuss this issue. We take this opportunity to thank Mr. Nandakumar, Murali Krishnan Dr. Niranjana D. Chaya, the youngsters and particularly the CAPUCHIAN BROTHERS for making this document possible. We request all our constituent Unions, state level organisations and the NFF general body members to continue to monitor the violations in each one's area carefully and keep on updating the document.

NATIONAL COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The union Ministry of Environment and Forest constituted a National Coastal Zone Management committee (NCZMC) on 13.08.98 "to advise the Central Government on policy planning and to monitor the effective enforcement of the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification by the concerned states U. Ts. (No. 1524/USF/98 dated 13.08.98). Out of the 12 members of the committee as many as 8 are government officials. Only 2 members are nominated from the fisheries sector including the NFF. Shi Thomas Kocherry has been nominated to the committee as the leader of NFF. All the non-official members are from the west coast. There is neither any scientist or women in the committee. We expressed our unhappiness at the composition of the committee and requested the concerned Minister to fill up the gap. We have not yet received any response. Nevertheless this is a very high power government committee with vast scope of furthering the peoples approach to environmental issues specifically CRZ issues. We have to make all efforts to work in the committee like our involvement in the Murari committee for playing a forceful role in the CRZMC. We need active and prompt collaboration of our members specially in collecting and communicating incidences of CRZ violations.

AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY BILL

Both the United Front Government and the BJP Government have been trying to push the Aquaculture Authority Bill to pass in the Loksabha to circumvent Supreme Court judgement to demolish all aquaculture farms within CRZ. The NFF went on a national agitation, organized Dharnas in all coastal states and also campaigning with the MPs & Ministers. We circulated an appeal to all the M.Ps. some of them responded positively. Since the bill is pending before the parliament we have to continue our protest and campaign. A fresh round of campaign begun a few days back in collaboration with other like minded friends.

The central government in collaboration with the Industrial Aquaculture lobby of India and world decided to organize a World Aquaculture meet in Delhi from 5th to 7th November '98. Fisherpeople and coastal communities decided to protest against this caucus. NFF spearheaded the protest in Delhi. The scheduled Aquaculture World meet was postponed but we organized a peoples convention on 4th November '98. This was a big warning to the government of India and to the aquaculture lobby that we were not going to lie low. We have to continue to put up the fight. This General Body should work out the action plan to continue our opposition to industrial aquaculture in India.

WORKSHOP ON MINIMUM WAGE

A workshop on minimum wage was organised in collaboration with NCL in Chennai from 17th to 19th April 1998. About 50 leaders participated. N.P.Swamy, Babu Mathew and N. Subbu lead the workshop. Minimum wage cannot be implemented in the fisheries unless there is a radical re-organization in the fisheries sector in the line proposed by WFF. Since most of the fishworkers are involved in the sharing system we need a collective co-ownership/cooperative/ collective system where fishworkers can be guaranteed of a minimum income. This political reorganization is the biggest challenge before us. What are the action plans we are going to take up to determine the future ?

RELEIF CUM SAVINGS SCHEME

NFF went on agitation for 15 days from 1st July 1998 demanding continuation of relief cum savings scheme and inclusion of women and inland fishworkers in the scheme. All the coastal states participated in the agitation. Women took part in a big way particularly in West Bengal, Orissa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In all these states the state government was forced to agree to implement the scheme. However Central Government wanted proof that the women was included in the scheme till 1993. This proof was given and the letter form Kerala Government has been send to the Central Government to place the issue before the planning commission. Prime Minister, Agriculture Minister and Defense Minister are involved in the agreement. Let us continue our pressure in the state and central levels so that women and inland fishworkers are included in the scheme. It is to establish that women are competent workers equal to men. We cannot keep quite till this is recognized by the beaurocrats and the Governments.

WORLD FISHERIES DAY

November 21, 1998 has emerged as a red letter day in the history of fisherpeople's movements in the world. This year the fishing communities in the world started celebrating 21 Nov as World Fisheries Day. NFF can genuinely take pride in making this history. In India all the coastal states worked out and implemented elaborate programs to celebrate the day. Mangrove took the centre stage in all the programs. The mammoth gathering of fisherpeople in the historic city of Mumbai voicing the demands of the day was unique. Each and every other state was special in one way or other. We thank each and every one who organized, participated and performed. The day was historic because in so many countries in the world, so many varieties of programs was organized to express or protest against factory fishing ships, Coastal Industrial Aquaculture and industrial pollution. This was complemented by campaigning for the

collective ownership of the sea and fishing implements by the fishing community. The sustenance of the fishing community through fish resource is the greatest challenge we are facing in the world today.

It is interesting to note some of the programs in other countries in the world. The Gloucester fishermen's wife's association of America led the campaign against the world's biggest factory ship "American Monarch" and succeeded in chasing out this devil from their sea. The Pacific Fishermen's association of the U.S and the Pienang inshore fishermen's Union Malasiya distributed their fish catch free to the public. The Canadian Council campaigned against the government policy of reducing the fishing fleet. In Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka fisherpeople went on a one day cession of work and celebrated the day in festivity. In Senegal and South Africa fisherpeople organized huge public rallies. These are some examples of celebration of World Fisheries Day.

W.F.F actions and the celebration of World Fisheries Day created sensation among the international community and various world bodies. A very strong group of NGO's is actively lobbying in the United Nations for accreditation of WFF with the UN. The FAO invited WFF to participate in its consultation on overcapacity in fishing held in Rome from 26th November 1998. The ILO is exploring possibilities of collaboration with NFF in the national level and WFF in the International level. We have to gear up ourselves to fulfill our responsibilities to realize our commitments to the fishworkers within and beyond national boundaries.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF PEOPLES MOVEMENTS

The NFF has been always active in the NAPM since its inception. In the second national convention of NAPM at Hyderabad choose Shri. Thomas Kocherry as its national Coordinator. NAPM spearheaded the campaign against iodised salt and our right to use natural salt. NAPM also joined in many places in the celebration of World Fisheries Day. There is a need for continuing the discussion on NAPM in all the units of NFF. It is very important that we collaborate with the agitation's of the agricultural workers dalits for their survival.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON LABOR RIGHTS

Growing grip of the IMF World Bank and WTO in the national economies of developing countries under the guise of globalization has thrown the working class in a trying situation. Maximum collective efforts of the worker's organizations is the need of the hour. In a major intervention, about forty representatives of various labor organizations come together in Bangalore from May 15-16, 1998 to deliberate on the issue of "Labor Rights in the context of Liberalization and globalization." In the consultation there were representatives of trade unions from the sectors such as Textiles, Engineering, Agriculture, Fisheries, Handloom, Construction, Knitwear, Manufacturing, Plantation, Anganvadi, Domestic workers, and Railways etc. Among the trade unions who were represented were AITUC, INTUC, HMS, HMKP, NCL, AICCTU, NFCL, Marumarchi Labor Front and a number of independent trade Unions including the Tamil Nadu Households Workers Union and the centre of Unorganized Workers. NFF was represented by its chairperson.

The National campaign on Labour rights deliberated on the labor rights violations in many important sectors and debated some critical issues affecting labour and came up with recommendations on different sectors. Recommendations on Fisheries are as follows

- I. The government must protect the livelihood of the fisherfolk by protecting marine fish recourses through the proper implimentation of marine fishing regulation acts, the introduction of trawl bans during monsoons breeding season through out the coast of India, and the elimination of foreign vessels entering through joint ventures.
- II. The Government must protect the coastal environment by strictly implementing the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification and stop any attempts to dilute the existing CRZ rules
- III. The Aquaculture authority bill intended to circumvent the supreme court judgement on Shrimp Aquaculture should be withdrawn and the SC judgement be properly implemented.
- IV. To ensure that the full benefits reaches the fishworkers, only sea going fishermen should be allowed to own fishing vessels.
- V. To protect the dwindling livelihood of the inland fishermen, first priority should be given to fishermen communities for harvesting tanks ponds and other water bodies rather than contractors and businessmen.
- VI. In view of the displacement of the fishermen due to various projects including dams, rehabilitation and compensation plans should include fishermen who are affected but are often unnoticed.
- VII. Government must ensure labour rights of the women in fish processing plants are protected and that the various provisions of the Factory Act, Contract workers act, Interstate Migrant workers Act and Minimum wages Act are all implemented.
- VIII. Trade Unions must take up a campaign for registration of the contractors supplying women Labor to the processing plants and for organising the women and making them aware of their rights.
- IX. Given that the women work for 8-9 months a year only on account of the seasonality of raw material availability, off season wages and proper social security measures must be provided.
- X. The role of women fish vendors must be recognized and they should be included in social security schemes of the government which are now only applied to the fishermen.

RELEASE OF INNOCENT FISHERMEN

Our efforts to release innocent fishermen from the jails of Pakistan and SriLanka continued in collaboration with the CEC and other fraternal organisations. We are very happy to inform the NFF General Body that the last batch of 190 Pakistani Fishermen and 270 Indian fishermen have been released from the jails of India and Pakistan respectively on the eve of the World Fisheries Day. We take this opportunity to thank CEC for their persistent collaboration and constant support in this manner.

For the release of innocent fishermen from India and Sri Lankan Jails we have formed a new alliance. The South Asian Labor Forum (SALF) has been instrumental in bringing this body into being. This new body is named ALLIANCE OF RELEASE OF INNOCENT

FISHERMEN (ARIF). Through the efforts of ARIF so far 15 Sri Lankan fishermen and 21 Indian fishermen have been released from India and Sri Lanka respectively. For details please see annex.

ROUND TABLE MEETING ON WORKERS IN FISH PROCESSING INDUSTRY:

On request from the NFF, The Centre for Education and communication(CEC) Delhi, conducted a study on the conditions of workers in the fish processing industry by a team of volunteers headed by Dr. Shobhana Warrier. On the occasion of releasing the finding of the study a round table meeting of different Trade Unions, academicians and activists was organized at the National Human Rights Commission New Delhi on 3rd November 1998. The meeting was held in two sessions chaired by Dr. Runddar Dutt of Delhi University and the NFF chairperson. Mr. A Vijaya Raqghavan, M. P. Amerjeeth Kaur, General secretary of AITUC, P. Joseph(INTUC), Ashim Roy(HMKP), R. K. Bhagat(BMS), P.K. Shali (IFTU), Renana Javila(SEWA), Sunil Chopra(AIAWU), Ashoke Chowdhury (NCL) and economist Jean Dreze were among the participants of the discussion.

The meeting decided that there was a need for working around a code of conduct for labor rights in the Fish processing industry. This could make it difficult for companies flouting labor laws to market their products in the countries where the products were being exported to. It was felt that there was a need for a bargaining mechanism. An element of bargaining will go a long way in ameliorating the conditions of the workers. It is necessary to tighten the prevailing labor laws, especially enforcing the Inter State Migrant Workers Act. For this there is an urgent need for registration of the workers.

Among the other things decided were : The right to information should be observed by the industry. There should be a campaign for the registration of workers at their source with the respective state labor commissioners. A welfare board must be created for the workers, funds for this should come from the cess collected from the industry. The compulsory monitoring of health of the workers in the FPI should be covered under ESI.

It has been decided to constitute a monitoring body comprising of trade unions, women's movements and concerned NGO's. The NFF is committed to the cause of these workers. There is a need to discuss and decide in the general body how do we go ahead to secure the workers interests in the food processing industry.

FOLLOW UP OF THE PROBLEM OF THE MIGIRANT PROCESSING WORKERS :

There have been many cases of ill treatment and illegal dismissal of workers in processing plants in different parts of the country this year. We have made two visits to Gujarat, Maharashtra and Manglore to intervene and see how some of these cases could be settled. While we have tried to seek justice in as many case as possible, there has not been very much success. A case have been registered for the girl who was killed in one plant in Veraval and we have made arrangements to shift the case to Trivandrum. We also did much to intervene in the case of 61 workers dismissed from the Cham plant in Porbandhar. All the nine departments were also involved . Unfortunately the workers were

divided and one group agreed to a settlement lower than their due and the case was closed.

Both the Kerala Women's Commission and the Kerala Labor commission have taken a lot of interest to pursue this matter. The labour commissioner called a meeting of all the labor officers giving them instructions regarding the booking of contractors. He is also keen to put into effect our recommendations of creating an employment exchange where girls who want to go work can register. The Labor commissioner has himself decided to visit Gujarat and Maharashtra himself to see how this problem can be solved.

Various meeting have been held in different areas in June and July both in Kerala and Tamil Nadu to inform the girls of the right demands they should make to contractors before agreeing to go to work. We have not proceeded to build the union among them for various reasons. This year there was no work in the peeling sheds in Kerala because of the problem in exports, so women were out of work. We also have some major doubts about the usefulness of organizing a union in the processing plants. We feel we should make pressure at the administrative level so that the labor laws are applied in the processing industry on the one hand and better information regarding the rights among women who desire to go for such work on the other. As we ourselves in the NFF are opposed to the export oriented processing industry, organising women around the processing industry will defeat our purpose of fighting for the survival at the community level, we would like to have some discussion on this at the GB.

We have succeeded to build a minimum support group in Bombay and the lawyers collective have agreed to relate to the women at sevadan in order to follow -up the cases in Maharashtra.

Mercy Alexander and Gracy M.M did most of this follow up and the KSMTF was active at the Kerala level. Fr. Thomas Kocherry has contacted the National Women's commission and they propose to visit Kerala in December '98. Purnima and Alphy have done a good amount of work in their areas and they will report separately.

THANIMA

In collaboration with SEWA Ernakulam and with Inspiration and organisation of engineers in Ernakulam, NFF has started an eco-friendly shop in Ernakulam. This is a pioneering effort to bring together the sale of alternate products in India. There is a very good scope for organising this kind of shops in all the coastal states. One percent of the total turnover of this shop will go to NFF and NAPM funds. This is one of the ways of helping the movements.

ELECTION

The present NFF executive committee was elected on the 8th December '95 at the Tuticorin General body. NFF Bye laws provide a three years term for its executive committee. We have completed the tenure. We were entrusted with the duties which include the holding of election after 3 years. We request the General body to kindly elect a new committee and help us complete our bounded duty. We thank each and everyone of

our constituent organisations and each individual members whose unparalleled support and enormous love was always our source of confidence and strength during the last years.

The fisherpeople of India is dreaming to create a new situation where the fishing community will own the water bodies, seas lakes, and rivers. The fishing community has the sole right on the fish resources and its management. The fishing community alone should own the fishing implements. Fisherpeople co-operatives should manage the water bodies, fish resouces and fishing implements. Every fishing village should have a co-opeative with all the local fisherpeople as its members. All those who are fishing for livelihood belong to the fishing community. To bring about this change we need legislative support. This is possible only through sustained struggle and determined campaign. Let us all take a vow to carry this spirit to the furthest corner of the most remote fishing village of our country as the message of Dadanpatrabar conference.

Thanking you

Harekrishna Debnath
(Chairperson)

R. K. Patel
(General secretary)

ANNEXE

ALLIANCE FOR RELEASE OF INNOCENT FISHERMEN (ARIF)

(An alliance of trade unions and non governmental organisations for release of innocent fishermen arrested on the Indo-Sri Lanka maritime border)

C/o South Indian Federation of Fishermen societies, Karmana, Trivandrum- 695 002
Tel : 343711/343178 Fax : 342 053 E mail : siffs@md2.vsnl.net.in

Release of 15 Sri Lankan Fishermen from Madurai jail

The release of the 15 Sri Lanka Fishermen in Madurai jail was accomplished on 25th May when they left with their three boats from Mandapam. A lot of drama preceded their release and we were unhappy at the turn of events. You may know that they had been charged under Customs Act for "smuggling" shark fins! Basically nothing incriminating was found in the vessels and the only material available was fish. A "confession" was obtained to the effect that shark fins were being brought for sale in India to obtain a better price. We were aghast at this as Sri Lanka has a better price for marine fish than India and shark fins are internationally traded items for which no significant price difference is likely. In fact merchant exploitation ensures that our beach prices are often lower than they should be. While we were focussed on the Madurai court, customs at Tuticorin took a decision to levy a penalty of 47,000 rupees. They also went for a prosecution in the court. Even though we wanted to fight the case and prove the innocence of the fishermen, our lawyers Henry and Pannerselvam of the peoples watch realised that such a course will take a long time and the fishermen cannot go home soon. Reluctantly our lawyers advised the fishermen to plead guilty and pay the fine. The owner of one of the boats arrived in India and he arranged for the boats and the fishermen to be released. What happened was to some extent a miscarriage of justice and genuine fishermen were convicted as common smugglers. My feeling is that it occurred as a result of over zealousness on the part of the customs officers who along with their authorities are having tough jobs policing a "porous" Ramnad coast.

Sri Lankan Fishermen in other jails

There is one fisherman in Palyamkottai jail and we are looking into his case. 28 fishermen are in Mangalore jail and we have written to the Chief Minister and Home Minister of Karnataka. Micheal Fernandez of HMKP has taken up the matter with the Karnataka government. We also have some information of some fishermen in the Andamans and have written to the Lt. Governor.

Release of Indian Fishermen from Sri Lanka

On May 4th, the last batch of 21 Mandapam fishermen in Sri Lankan jails returned

home. They had been arrested on the 13th March and came back in just six weeks thanks to the work of our Sri Lankan counterparts as well as efforts of the state and central governments. While Steve Creech regularly visited the jail and helped our fishermen, Maheshwari took up the matter with the authorities and got the release order. In fact they could have come earlier as the release order was dated 4th April. But "logistical difficulties" prevented the Sri Lanka navy from handing them over to our coast guard before 4th May. They were in various camps in the North (Kankesanthurai and Mannar) from the 8th April to 4th May. The boats had to be taken separately. The fishermen went back to Mannar on 21st May to bring back the boats. Two were in good condition and could be brought back. The other two had been abandoned with one engine only being salvaged. The boat problem was a serious one and we have to come up with some suggestions. Our fishermen were all praise for Steve Creech and Maheshwari who took care of them when they were in Mirihana Detention camp in Colombo.

I shall get in touch with you all regarding our next meeting and forth coming activities soon

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(V. Vivekanandan)
Convenor

Date : 28-5-98

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ARIF

1. Objectives of ARIF

- To study and understand the various dimensions of the problems that lead to the arrest of innocent fishermen
- To work for the early release of innocent Indian fishermen who are in Sri Lankan jails.
- To work for the creation of a permanent mechanism to ensure prompt repatriation of Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen who cross the borders.
- To work for a broader policy at SAARC level which will ensure that fishermen crossing borders are treated humanely and are not unnecessarily imprisoned for long stretches

2. Members of ARIF

Central Trade Unions : AICCTU, AITUC, CITU, HMKP, HMS, INTUC, NFF

State level Trade Unions : MLF, Fishermen wings of DMK, AIDMK and TMC

NGO's : South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) Trivandrum, Tamil Nadu Rural Reconstruction Movement (TRRM) Ramnad, SNEHA Nagapattanam, Peoples Watch Madurai, Human Rights Foundation (HRF) Madras, Christian Workers Movement Madras, and Centre for Education and Communication (CEC) Delhi.

Fishermen Associations : Tamil Nadu Meenavar Peravai (Madras), Tamil Nadu Fishworkers Forum (Nagarcoil), Singaravelu Meenavar Peravai (Pamban)

3. ARIF Operations

ARIF is currently an unregistered entity. It has only a convener at present who is responsible for the day today activities of ARIF. The secretariat of ARIF is based at the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies, Thiruvananthapuram. A committee composed of representatives of all ARIF member organizations meets once in 3 months normally at Madras.

4. Affiliation to SALF

ARIF is the offshoot of the South Asia Labor Forums (SALF), which is the body of Central Trade Unions of four SAARC countries (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri-Lanka) and labor support groups. SALF is taking up many issues of common interest to workers and South Asia like exploitation of labor in the garment industry, problem of fish workers who cross borders etc..

STATE REPORTS

DAKSHIN BANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

ANNUAL REPORT 1998

The following were the main activities of DMF during the year 1998:

1. CAMPAIGN AGAINST INDUSTRIAL PRAWN CULTURE & VIOLATION OF CRZ NOTIFICATION by holding public meetings, group discussions etc. :-

a) From 31.01.98 to 04.02.98 NFF Chairperson along with the President and General Secretary of DMF and other leaders and activists toured coastal fishing centers of Ramnagar, Contai, Khejuri and Egra Police Station areas of Midnapore district. They were accompanied with leaders of other fishworkers' organisations.

b) From 1.3.98 to 6.3.98 DMF President and General Secretary toured different coastal fishing centers of Kakdwip and Namkhana Police Station areas as also Raidighi, Kultali, Gosala and Basanti Police station areas of Sunderbans of South 24 Parganas district.

2. WORKSHOP ON VIOLATION OF CRZ NOTIFICATION

The Workshop on Violation of CRZ Notification was held at the DMF Head Office at Diamond Harbour from 25.04.98 to 27.04.98 with the activists of West Bengal and Orissa. The Resource persons were NFF Chairperson, Prof. Murali Krishnan, Mr. D. Nandkumar and Ms. Nalini Nayak. Nine persons from Orissa and eighteen from West Bengal participated in this workshop. After this workshop the activists made extensive survey on violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification in their respective allocated coastal areas and submitted their reports to the authorities concerned.

3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DMF

The Annual General Meeting of DMF, 1997 was held at its Head Office at Diamond Harbour on 28.04.98. The Hon'ble Fisheries Minister of West Bengal, Shri Kiranmay Nanda was the Chief Guest of this occasion. The meeting was inaugurated by NFF Chairperson Harekrishna Debnath. Veteran freedom fighter Sri Hiralal Das Roy and Ms. Nalini Nayak were special guests to this occasion. The meeting was presided over by outgoing DMF President Nirmalendu Das. The meeting placed the following demands before the Minister:

- 1) Implementation of Marine Fisheries Regulation Act
- 2) Prohibition of CRZ violation
- 3) Prevent placing of Aquaculture Authority Bill in the Loksabha
- 4) Immediate implementation of Relief - cum- Savings Scheme for both Marine and Inland sectors without gender-discrimination.

Resolutions were adopted on launching movement throughout the state on the above-mentioned demands.

The Minister in his speech declared immediate implementation of Marine Fisheries Regulation Act and also to do the needful to implement Relief cum Savings Scheme for the fisherpeople in the state.

The Executive Committee of DMF was reconstituted with Sri Amulya Kumar Bar as President and Shyamal Kumar Mandal as General Secretary.

4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SUNDERBAN SAMUDRIK MATSYAJIBI SRAMIK UNION

On 10.05.98 NFF Chairperson Sri H.K.Debnath accompanied by DMF leaders attended the Annual General Meeting of Sunderban Samudrik Matsyajibi Sramik Union 1997 (a NFF affiliated union) at Kakdwip, Dist. South 24 Parganas. The DMF leaders present included President, Sri Amulya Kumar Bar, Vice- President Sri Nirmalendu Das, General Secretary Sri Shyamal Kumar Mandal, Asst. Secretary Ms. Sita Kar and Executive Member Sri Srikanta Das.

Resolutions were adopted on the issues:

- 1) Implementation of Marine Fishing Regulation Act
- 2) Implementation of Relief cum Savings Scheme etc.

5. MOVEMENT AGAINST AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY BILL: -

On 27.05.98 as part of the NFF's country-wide movement on behalf of DMF memoranda were submitted to the Sub Divisional Officers of Contai, Diamond Harbour and Kakdwip requesting Govt. of West Bengal to do the needful so that the Aquaculture Authority Bill be not produced in the existing Loksabha Session. Public meetings were held at Contai, Kakdwip and Diamond Harbour on the same issue on 27.05.98.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF RELIEF- CUM- SAVINGS SCHEME

As part of NFF's country-wide movement for Implementation of Relief-cum-Savings Scheme continued dharna was launched from 1.07.98 at Contai in Midnapore district and at Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas District. At Contai, continued Dharna was staged in front of Meen Bhavan, the office of the Asstt. Director of fisheries. Every day more than 500 fishermen and women took part in the Dharna led by NFF Chairperson Harekrishna Debnath. Thousands of fishermen and women joined the processions and public meetings of every day. It was really a unique show in the history of Contai which created an unprecedented impact among the people of all walks of life. At Kakdwip about 100 fisherpeople took part in the Dharna at Chowrasta More every day. Local leaders of all political parties visited the Dharna Manch expressed their full support to the genuine cause of the fisherpeople both at Contai and Kakdwip.

On 7th July Fisheries Minister Sri Kiranmoy Nanda went down to Contai, joined the Dharna and stayed there for about two hours and expressed full support of his Government to the demand and declared that the scheme will be implemented in the next financial year without any gender discrimination. He then requested for the withdrawal of the Dharna. Subsequently the Dharna was withdrawn on 8th July and on that day we observed victory ceremony specially at Contai and Kakdwip.

7. WORLD FISHERIES DAY:

November 21st, World Fisheries Day was observed in the state in a befitting matter. The day was declared non-fishing day and this was observed everywhere with sufficient importance observing different programs throughout the day. Among the programs were:

- Hoisting of National and Organisational Flags.
- Processions
- Public Meetings
- Sports and Games
- Cultural Functions
- In coastal fishing centres and Sunderban areas a special programme of Mangrove Plantation

The day was centrally observed at Contai Town. Several thousands of fisherpeople marched through the roads of Contai shouting slogans of demands. The procession was led by NFF Chairperson and leaders of DMF and other local fishworker organisations participated in large number. In the afternoon a public meeting of the fisherpeople was held at Birendra Smriti Bhavan, Contai. This meeting was presided over by the Chairman of Contai Municipality and attended by about 2000 fisherfolk of which 50% were women. NFF Chairperson was the Chief Guest and leaders of different political parties and organisations and fishing centre participated. At the end of the meeting prizes were awarded to veteran fishworker leaders, brilliant students of fisherfolk families, fishworkers who have made record catches during this season and the only sea-going fisherwoman Srimati Minakshi Manna.

FUTURE PLANS:

To strengthen the organization throughout the state. To launch continuous struggle against Industrial Prawn Culture, Violation of CRZ Notification and for Implementation of different social, political and economic demands of the fisherpeople both in Marine and Inland sectors.

Amulya Kumar Bar
President, DMF

Shyamal Kr. Mandal
(General Secretary, DMF)
6.12.98.

MALWAN TALUKA SHRAMIK MACHIMAR SANGH

ANNUAL REPORT- 1997-98

During the period under report, six meetings of the Managing Committee of the Sangh were held, apart from the Annual general Meeting. The activities of the sangh are briefly narrated below:-

1. A workshop was organized on behalf of the N.F.F at Chennai on 18-4-98 to discuss the issue of minimum wages. Shri Ramesh Duri participated in the workshop.
2. A dharna was organized on 5th June, 1998 at the Tehsil Office at Malwan to protest against the policy of the Central Govt. regarding the iodized salt. Nearly 100 women participated in this agitation.
3. At the initiative of the Konkan Sangarsha Samithi, a meeting was held at Chiplun on 15th June, 1998 to discuss the problems relating to the Enron project and those faced by the fishermen. The meeting was inter-alia attended by Ms Medha Patkar, Shri Rambhau Patil and Shri Ramesh Duri.
4. A rally was organized at Guhaghar on 16th June, 1998 on behalf of the Dabhol Khadi Bachavo Sangarsha Samiti to lodge a strong protest against the pollution caused to the Dabhol Creek by the industrial effluents. The pollution has adversely affected the fish catch in the area. This problem is causing a great threat to 42 villages. Ms. Medha Patkar, Shri Rambhau Patil & Shri Ramesh Duri took part in the rally.
5. On 18th June 1998, a meeting of the Maharashtra Machimar Kriti Samithi, a state unit of the N.F.F, was convened at the Mumbai office premises of the Thane Zilla Machimar Sangh. On the very same day, a meeting of the Vadhavan Bandar Virodhi Sangarsha Samiti was held at the Union office of the Docks & Port workers in Mumbai. Shri Ramesh Duri attended both the meetings.
6. A campaign was organized by Konkan Sangarsh Samiti, Shramik Sahayog and Malvan Taluka Shramik Machimar Sangh from 10th to 16th July, 1998 in Sindhudurg, Raigad & Ratnagiri Districts in support of the CRZ Notification.
7. A morcha was organized on 22 July, 1996 at the fishermen's village, Shiroda Velagar, against the move to grab the lands of fishermen. The police resorted to lathi charge on the peaceful agitators. A protest day was organized on 22nd July, 1998 at the village against the police atrocity.
8. On 23rd & 24th July 1998, a rally of the fishermen & Bhoi communities was held at Guhaghar in connection with the problems faced by them and for giving guidance about the C.R.Z Notification. Sarvashri Rambhau Patil, Motiram Bhave, Ramesh Duri & Ms Poornima Mehar participated in the rally.
9. A workshop on new economic policy and globalization was organized at Chiplun on

6th, 7th & 8th August, 1998 under the guidance of Shri Minar Pimple, President of Yuvs Pratishthan, Mumbai. Shri Ramesh Duri participated in the workshop.

10. A seminar was organized on 25th & 26th September, 1998 at Ratnagiri by the state fisheries department to discuss the progress and future prospects of fisheries on the coastal area of Konkan. Shri Ramesh attended the seminar.
11. A joint meeting of the Maharashtra Machhimar Kriti Samiti & NFF was convened at Cuffe Parade in Mumbai on 7th September, 1998 in connection with the first World Fisheries Day in Mumbai. Shri Ramesh Duri attended this meeting.
12. A two day seminar was organized at Tata Vigyan Kendra at Deonar, Mumbai to discuss the issue of sanctuaries. A discussion on various projects of sanctuaries took place. The project of proposed sanctuary at Malvan was opposed. Shri Ramesh Duri participated in the seminar.
13. On 12th August, 1998, a notice board about the proposed marine sanctuary at Malvan was displaced disregarding the opposition to it of the local fishermen. An urgent rally was organized on 19th August, 1998 by the Malvan Taluka Shramik Machhimar Sangh to register protest against the move of the state government.
14. A rally of the fishermen was organized at Guhaghar magdoli on 2nd Oct 1998 to lodge protest against the pollution being caused to Dhabol Creek.
15. The Maharashtra Government organized a symposium at Malvan on 10th Oct, 1998 to discuss various problems faced by the fishermen. A detailed memorandum was presented on behalf of the Sangh containing 19 demands. The proposed marine sanctuary project at Malvan was strongly opposed.
16. The first World Fisheries Day was celebrated in Mumbai on 21st November 1998. Shri Ramesh Duri & others from Sindhudurg district participated in the celebrations. On behalf of the Sindhudurg District a contribution of Rs.10,000/- was made for the World Fisheries Day.

RAMESH DURI
(President
Malvan Taluka Shramik Machhimar Sangh)

ANNUAL REPORT OF TAMIL NADU FISHWORKERS UNION (T.F.U) -1998

We are happy to present the annual report of the TFU which has its unions in three districts viz Kanyakumari, Thirunalveli and Tuticorin.

THE ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS

Thirteen general body meetings, seventeen executive meetings, four consultation meetings for womens in fisheries and five consultaion meetings for the fishworkers conference which will take place in January 24th 1999. The various agenda of the above meetings are the following.

1. Deep sea fishing and training
2. World Forum of Fish Workers
3. Coastal Regulation Zone
4. Aqua culture
5. Nuclear plant at Koodamkulam
6. Garnet sand mining
7. Issues of Inland Fishworkers
8. Problem of Women working in Fish processing plants and the death of Ms. Prakasi, a worker at the plant
9. Pension scheme for the fishworkers
10. Co-operative societies for Women
11. Fish workers conference
12. World Fisheries Day
13. Needs of Kerosene diesel and drinking water
14. Co-operative bank for fishworkers
15. Village panchayats
16. Sea erosion
17. Condition of, and the action for fishworkers who are lost in the sea
18. Pollution
19. Saving- cum- relief scheme for women fishworkers

AGITATIONS

CRZ and Aquaculture

TFU joined hands with NFF in the struggle for the implementation of the Supreme Court order of CRZ and to ban aquaculture farms. TFU organized a Dharna on May 27th 1998 in front of the District collectorate to highlight the demand.

15 point demand

Women fishworkers organized a dharna in Nagarcoil and Thirunelveli on June 15, 1998 pressing for the implementation of a 15 point demand. At the end of the dharna, which was participated by more than 300 women the district collector of Thirunelveli agreed to set up a women police station in Uvari. Immediate action was taken to issue good quality rice through the ration shops.

Demand for CBI inquiry into Prakash's death

Ms Prakash, a shrimp worker from Kanyakuri died mysteriously while she was working at K.M.T. navayuga fish processing plant at Ghardikia in Orissa. Her body was buried there. T.F.U. organized a big rally at Nagarcoil on June 22nd, 1998 demanding C.B.I. inquiry into her death. Since there was no proper response from the govt. a second rally was organized on November 14, 1998. The highlight of the rally which covered all the thoroughfares of the town was the symbolic coffin that was carried by women at the rally capturing the attention of all the bystanders. The march received wide coverage in the local press.

Rallies, Strikes, Agitations

- As decided at the NFF general body meeting a big rally was organized at Nagarcoil on the first of July followed by a week long Dharna. More than two thousand people participated in the rally. The agitation was for inclusion of inland fishworkers and coastal women fish workers in the government savings cum relief fund scheme. More than fifteen thousand inland fish workers went on strike. All the fish markets remained closed.
- On July the second, the TFU Nellai District unit organized an agitation, for the same above mentioned demand, in front of the collectors office. More than two hundred persons participated.
- On August 31, 1998, inland fish workers of Tuticorin organized a strike demanding relief fund along with 13 other demands. A rally started at Cruz Fernandez statue reached the Tuticorin district collectors office after walking past all the main thoroughfares of the town. More than four thousand people took part in the rally.

TFU COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- TFU participated in a meeting organized by SIFFS on the 2nd week of December in connection with Indian Fishermen languishing in Sri Lankan prisons.
- TFU participated in a seminar on "Coastal realities" organized by M.S University on December 30, 31 of 1997.
- On July 10th 1998 TFU participated in a seminar organized on aquaculture by Coastal Area Network.

- On January 1st 1998 TFU took part in a committee meeting that discussed about fish landing centers. The meeting was animated by Hans Raj Varma of Chennai.
- On February 7th 1998 TFU joined hands with other organisations in an agitation to demand for a fish landing center at Thengapattinam. As a result, a dialog was held with the Assistant Director of Fisheries of Nagarcoil and R.D.O. of Thucklai and leaders of different political parties. A decision was arrived to initiate a process of developing a fish landing center at Thenkapattinam at cost of sixty crores.
- TFU joined hands with other groups in an agitation against illicit liquor on October 12th 1998, and demanded for the rights of domestic workers. TFU participated in a rally, dharna and public meeting on October 13th 1998 protesting against assault on some nuns in Madhya Pradesh.

TRAWLING

- To stop monsoon trawling there was dialogue in Thoothoor with different organisation. It was decided to organise a dharna against monsoon trawling.
- TFU met the Director, Joint Director of fisheries and other officials in Chennai on April 20, 1998 and gave memorandum to stop monsoon trawling. The Director said communication would be sent to TFU when further consultation would be held along with different organisations. Unfortunately no further communication were received.
- The agitation was followed up again on May 14, 1998. This time this was a “Kanji cooking” agitation. The demonstrators cooked rice gruel in front of the district collectorate and shouted slogans.

OTHER INITIATIVES

- An attempt was made by TFU to unite all groups and agencies involved with the fisherpeople of Kanyakumari district and bring them under a joint Action Committee. The Coastal Peace and Development Council (CPDC) was an invitee but it declined to be part of the committee. Now the committee has stopped functioning.
- TFU participated in a seminar on “Daily wages” organized in Chennai on April 18, 1998 by NFF
- TFU completed the CRZ survey in two districts of Kanyakumari and Thirunelveli.
- TFU participated in the KSMTF collaborated dialogue on January 8 to solve the problems of Kanyakumari people fishing in Kerala.
- There was some misunderstanding between two groups in TFU. Despite the fact that Thomas Kocherry, T. Peter of KSMTF, Harekrishna Debnath and Nalini Nayak got involved to mediate and despite the serious of meetings held at their presence on January 15, March 1 and July 29, 1998 we felt that there was no sign of working together.

- Mr. Jesurethinam whose leg was amputated due to the police firing on May 1, 1989 was not collaborating with Fr. Arulanandam and TFU in conducting the court case. He had been asked to cooperate or else the Union could not do anything for him.
- On the Invitation of the NFF, TFU attended a seminar organized in Sri Lanka Canada Development board in Sri Lanka from February 9 to 20, 1998. The problems of the fishworkers, women, their work, standard of life, importance of unionization coastal pollution and different methods of fishing were some of the topics dealt therein. Our stay in Sri Lanka gave us an opportunity to meet with Mr. Douglas Devanand M. P., Mrs. Uma Maheshwari, Mr Chandra Mohan M.P., and the Canadian High commissioner. They promised to help to expedite the release of Indian Fishermen languishing in Sri Lankan prison.
- On June 20, the TFU unit of Mulloorthurai helped reclaim a piece of "Purampokku" land illegally opened by some one. Now 13 houses have been put up by the fishworkers

TRAINING PROGRAM

- From January 9 to 11 TFU and KSMTF together organized a training program for 50 of their leaders. Fr Thomas Kocherry, Dr. Santhakumar and Sr. Philomine Marie were the resource persons.
- A cultural training program was organized from November 24 to 26 for children of the trade union members.
- Again another cultural training program was organized for young girls. This was conducted from September 6 to 18. The resource person for these programs were Ms. Princy
- These cultural training programs were followed up in a village every week by Ms. Princy. The trained group enacted their programs on the World Fisheries Day.

INLAND FISHWORKERS

- TFU organized four consultations on the issue of inland fishworkers.
- A public meeting was organized at Thikkanamcode village on January 27 to highlight the urgent need of unionization of the fisherpeople.
- A consumer awareness camp was organized at Karungal on the first of February
- The local units have fought for the rights of individual members and won their case. Two cases could be mentioned here. When one Mr. Mudiappan, a TFU member from Puthukadai, died on April 29, he was refused a place in the village burial ground. The reason : his wife, against the village injunctions, brought fish to the local market by bus. The Villagers demanded a fine for the period from 1992 to 1998 when she made use of the bus service to bring in fish. TFU took up the issue and with the collaboration of

the parish priest and the local police Mudiappan was given a solemn burial at the common ground without his wife having to pay the fine. Then when another member; Mr. Peter from the same village died on July 21, there was no hitch whatsoever, though this family too have had similar problem. After these two incidents there has been unity and better cohesion among the villagers.

- On October 2nd, the Karingal unit conducted a free Sidha Medical Camp whereby more than 500 people benefited the services of seven doctors.
- The Aloor unit took action against illicit liquor being sold in the village. With the help of the police the menace was brought to an end.

MEMORANDA

We met the Labour Commissioner in Chennai on April 20, '98 and submitted a memorandum highlighting the demands of the women shrimp workers in the fish processing plants.

We have sent memoranda to all the concerned officials and ministers in connection with the mysterious death of Ms. Prakasi, a shrimp worker in Orissa.

WORLD FISHWORKERS' DAY

TFU took initiative to convene two meetings of several groups to plan for the celebration of the World Fishworkers' Day.

The celebration continued for the whole week from November 11 to 22.

The celebration began at Thiruvithamcode with flag hoisting on November 11. sports meet, community meal, cultural events and traditional gaiety marked the day.

Kurunthaancode unit had the celebration on the same day.

Thickanamcode and Helen Colony on November 17.

Nagarcoil on the nineteenth. On this day a seminar was organised on the theme "The culture of Fishworkers" Fr. Justus was the guest speaker. There were more than 100 participants.

Manakkavillai, Padmanabhapuram and Aloor celebrated the day on the twentieth.

Chinnamutton, Enayam, Puthenkadai, Puthenthurai, Kuzhithurai and Thengapattanam of Kanyakumari district and Idinthankarai, Koothenkuzhi, Uvari, Kootapuli of the Nellai district celebrated on the twenty-first November. The local MLA and the councilors participated in the public meeting held at Thengapattanam.

Thomayarapuram of Nellai district celebrated the day on the twenty-second. The local MLA and 15 Panchayath presidents and councilors spoke on that occasion. Many

memoranda were given on that day demanding the protection of marine resources from pollution, deep sea fishing and indiscriminate use of harmful gear.

In general the week long celebration has succeeded in enthusing the fishworkers. Flag hoisting, singing of the theme song "Thirantha parantha kadalil meen pidippom" (We shall fish in the open wide sea), cultural events and occasional community meal were the highlights of the celebration.

ACTIVITIES WITH NAPM

- TFU took initiative to organize 13 meeting of the Local NAPM unit.
- TFU took active part in a hall meeting held at Enayam Puthenthurai under the leadership of Ms. Medha Patkar, Fr. Thomas Kocherry and Ms. Gabriele on the 3rd of January. More than 5000 people participated in a public meeting on the same day highlighting various environmental issues.
- On January 4, 1998, along with Medha Patkar we attended a public meeting at Idinthakarai and visited and spoke to some of the leaders of Koodamkulam.
- TFU attended the national conference of NAPM in Hyderabad.
- TFU participated in the state level conference of NAPM at Vellore on July 18 and 19.
- TFU attended an all party- all - NGO meet at hotel Limras on July 22 convened to create wider consensus among the political parties and groups concerning the nuclear plant at Koodamkulam and the water supply from there to Pechaiparai dam
- As a sequel, TFU participated in big number on August 8 in the rally organized by NAPM against the setting up of Koodamkulam nuclear plant and the supply of water from Peechipari.
- TUF itself, on October 18 organized a seminar on Koodamkulam with Mr. Surendhra Gadegar and Dr.V.T. Pathmanabhan as resource persons.
- This was followed by a four-day awareness and training program from Oct. 19 to 22 for a group of select persons from various organizations. Two committees were formed at the end of the program; one to mobilize resources and the other to spear head the agitation.

FUTURE PLANS

1. Formation and strengthening of units
2. Fishworker's conference on 23rd and 24th of January.
3. World Fishworkers Day.

4. Collobaration with NFF, WFF and NAPM in their activities.
5. Issues to be taken are:

- Kerosene and diesel
- Relief Fund
- Fisherpeople's Cooperative Bank
- Monsoon trawling
- Workers at the processing plant
- Training programs
- Training of the cultural group
- Fund raising
- Magazine "Meen Thozhilali" to be released on January 24
- Continuation of the CRZ survey
- Village level public meetings
- Conducting of TFU meeting in village units gradually
- Flag hoisting in all the village

We are happy that TFU could do something this year especially for the celebration of World Fishworker's day. It is a small union yet its members do their best for achiveing there rights. It must be strengthened and collaboration of many more persons must be enlisted. We hope this will be realized.

Thanking You,

Mr. T. Peter Das
(President)

REPORT OF THE ORISSA TRADITIONAL MARINE FISHERPEOPLES FEDERATION

A meeting was held at Gopalpur on sea on 18/2/98 and decided the following

- To send memorandum to the collector and fisheries minister
- Ban of illegal fishing trawlers and
- Ban on industrial Aqua culture

The representatives of Marine fisheries from all over Orissa met on 23.3.98 at Notia Nuagaon. They proposed the withdrawal of aquaculture authority bill and withdrawal of joint venture license for foreign vessels.

Ten members from Orissa participated in the NFF training program for the survey of CRZ Violations. A protest Dharna was organized in front of the assembly house by the Orissa traditional marine fisher peoples federation from 8.7.98 to 10.7.98. They presented a memorandum with their demands to the fisheries minister for the withdrawal of aquaculture authority bill, withdrawal of joint venture license of fishing vessels. The matter was discussed in the assembly and the minister promised to do the needful.

On November 21 Fisheries day was celebrated at Notia Navagaon. The district collector was the chief guest. He promised to ban the illegal entry of the trawlers in the Orissa coast.

FUTURE PLANS

1. Formation of committee with 10 members from each district.
2. To create awareness among the fisherfolk on the supreme court decision on Aquaculture
3. To co-operate with the decisions of NFF
4. Continue the struggle for the implementation of the CRZ Notification.

Yours faithfully

K. Aleya
(Convener,
Orissa Traditional Marine Fisher People's Federation)

THE GUJRAT FISHWORKERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT -1998

1. MARINE FISHERIES ACT

The state unit discussed the draft of the Marine Fisheries Act and made specific recommendations. The bill has now to be tabled in the Assembly and we request the NFF to make a resolution in order to pressurize the state government to do so.

2. CYCLONE RELIEF

The Gujarat coast was hit by a bad cyclone on 9.06.98 which devastated the coastal communities from Porbandar to Kandla. We organized immediate relief and demanded that the government also assist the communities and help them meet the havoc caused by the cyclone. As a result 7 1/2 crores of rupees was granted by the government as relief and an equivalent amount made available as bank loan to the fishermen. Families of 7 fishermen who lost their life's in the cyclone received Rs 1 Lakh each from the Prime Minister's Fund, Chief Ministers Fund and other relief also.

3. SALES TAX FREE DIESEL

As the fishing boats are obliged to go more distant fishing grounds, we made a demand for increase of sales tax free diesel. We demanded that the 21,000 -26,000 liters/ per year be enhanced to 35,00 - 45,000 liters/per year sales tax free. Our demand has not yet been headed and the struggle continues.

4. CENTRAL EXCISE FREE DIESEL

At present the exemption of central excise is 30 paise per liter and we are demanding a Rs. 2/- per liter exemption. We have submitted a memorandum with this demand to the central government.

5. WORLD FISHERIES DAY

World Fisheries Day was celebrated all over the Gujarati coast by way of small morchas and memorandum to the local fisheries offices. In Porbandar there was a public meeting presided over by Chairman of the Chamber of commerce and the gathering was addressed by Swami Niklanandi of the Ramakrishna Mission. Kokhriji explained the origin and the significance of the World Fisheries Day. There was a good follow-up in the press.

6. DREDGING OF FISHERIES HARBOR

We have demanded that the fishing harbors are regularly dredged as silting is a major problem being faced. In some ports it is being undertaken like in Okha, Popanda, Mangal & Veraval.

7. NEW FISHING HARBOR

Because of the congestion of crafts in Porbandar, we have demanded an extension of the fishing harbor and 2 1/2 crore have been sanctioned for the same.

8. COASTAL REGULATION ZONE

We collaborated in the CRZ violation mapping and submitted the findings to D. Nandakumar. 4 from porbandar and 3 from Veraval and the rest from Valsad participated in the training.

9. RELEASE OF FISHERMEN

191 fishermen and 31 boats were released from Pakistan thanks to the intervention of the NFF in Gujarath.

PREMJIBHAI KHOKHARI

THE MAHARASHTRA MACHIMAR KRITI SAMITI

ANNUAL REPORT- 1998

We are happy to present the report of the Maharashtra Machimar Kriti Samiti to the Annual General Body meeting of the National Fish Workers Forum being held at Dadampatrabar Matsyakholi in West Bengal.

Annual General Body meeting of the NFF 1997 held at Bassein, Tal. Bassien, Dist. Thane Maharashtra

The last Annual General Body meeting of the NFF was held at Bassien in Maharashtra on 6th, 7th and 8th December 1997. This meeting was hosted by Vasai Machimar Sarvodaya Sahakari Society. Shri Philip Mastan welcomed the office bearers of the NFF delegates from different coastal states. He also welcomed Mr. Daniel Bernier, the secretary of the Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters who was a guest of honour at the inaugural function.

All arrangements including lodging and boarding were made for the delegates in the premises of the society. The fisheries societies from Arnala, Bassein, Naigoan, Khochivde, Vasai Taluka Machimar Sahakari Federation, Catholic Bank at Bassein extended financial support to the Kriti Samiti in making these arrangements. Among those who extended their unstinted co-operation and help were Sarvashri Philip Mastan, Ramkrishna Poojari, Bastiyav Batya, Narayanan Patil, Philip Sajan, Philip Chandi, Zuru Dhaki etc. Mrs. Monika Nago, a woman worker, personally looked after the arrangements for breakfast and meals. On this occasion, Shri Thomas Kocherry was felicitated on his being elected as the general-Co-ordinator of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers.(W.F.F) In his address, Shri Thomas Kocherry made a special mention about the sacrifice made by Shri Philip Karthak from Bassein and other fish workers who suffered injuries in the police firing during the Kanyakumari march of 1st May 1989. The local fishing community from Bassien was visibly touched by this reference.

FISHING SCENARIO

The fishing season in marine sector during the year under report was generally good except for the period of three months from the middle of August 1998 to the middle of November 1998 when due to unseasonable rains at frequent intervals and cyclone that hit Mumbai and Bassien, the fish catch dwindled. There was a ban on Monsoon trawling in the state.

In Ratnagiri district purseining and ringseining which are destructive gears are being freely used. The fishing trawlers from Goa are in the habit of intruding into the fishing places in Sindhudurg district, using these destructive gears. Though the NFF is, in principle, opposed to fishing by these gears, concrete steps need to be taken by NFF to control this menace in a spirit responsible fisheries.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS-CUM-RELIEF SCHEME TO FISHERMEN AND FISHER WOMEN IN MARINE AND INLAND FISHERIES SECTOR.

In pursuance of the decision taken in the last Annual General Body meeting of the NFF held in December 1997, a memorandum was sent to the Chief Minister and State Fisheries Minister on 21st March 1998 requesting them to start implementation of the above scheme of the central government in Maharashtra latest by 30th June 1998 or else, we shall be constrained to resort to sathyagraha and Dharna agitation from 1st July 1998, as decided by NFF. In our memorandum, we also requested the state government to raise the contribution of (i) Fishermen and Fisher women (ii) Central Government & (iii) State Government to Rs. 100/- P.M. each for nine months i.e. except three monsoon seasons, so that the fishermen and fisher women both in marine and inland fisheries sector will get Rs. 2,700/- each during the lean monsoon period. We further requested the State Government to prevail on the Central Government to start the implementation of this scheme in Maharashtra and also to raise the contribution amount as indicated above.

We pursued the matter by sending reminder letters to the Chief Minister and the state Fisheries Minister on 13th April 1998 and 8th May 1998. Unfortunately, however, there was no response from Government side. A Dharna was, therefore organized at Azad maidan in Mumbai on 1st July 1998 to press for demand for implementation of the Scheme by the Central Government and the state government. Despite heavy downpour, a large number of fisherfolk participated in the Dharna for the whole day. The participation of fisherwomen from fishing villages in Mumbai and Thane districts was quite significant. On the same day, a memorandum was presented to the state fisheries minister and the secretary of the fisheries department who agreed to accord sympathetic consideration to the demand. The matter is being pursued, However it is suggested that, the scheme being centrally assisted, NFF may take up this matter with the Central Government and announce further action plan for bringing pressure on the Central Government to start implementation of this useful scheme.

CONSTRUCTION OF HI-TECH COMMERCIAL PORT AT VADHAVAN IN TAL. DAHANU OF THANE DISTRICT

The government of Maharashtra issued a letter of intent in favor of the P. & O. Ports Company, an Australian company, on 17th February, 1997 for construction of a mega port at VadHAVAN in Taluka Dahanu of Thane District. This project, it is claimed, would be the biggest in whole of Asia having 30 berths with facilities for handling oil, natural gas, chemicals, bulk cargo, containers and passenger ships and would involve a huge financial commitment of Rs. 3,600 crores. The Govt. of Maharashtra, time and again, declared its intentions to go ahead with this project, under any circumstances. The local people including farmers, adivasis, dye-makers and more significantly, the fishermen from the fishing villages in the Talukas of Palghar, Dahanu, Bassein, Thane and Talasari opposed the move for construction of this mega ports on the grounds, inter alia that it would adversely affect the marine ecology, deprive these people of their means of livelihood, pollute the environment, destroy the wealth of mangroves. They lodged strong protests from time to time by organizing agitations, morchas, Dharnas and presenting memoranda to the concerned government authorities. To intensify these efforts about morcha from Satpathi

to Vadhavan was organized on 20th January 1998, in which 200 boats from affected coastal talukas participated. Shri Thomas Kocherry, Harekrishna Debnath, Freedom fighter from West Bengal Bimal Das Ray, Rambhbu Patil, Prabhakar Chowdhary, Philip Mastin, Narayan Patil, Vasanth Patil, Moreshwar Patil, Arun Mhatre, Suresh Patil, A.R. Patil, Ashok Ambhire, Ms. Nargis Irani, Ms. Ketty Rustom, Shri Shailendra Yeshwant Shri N. D. Koli and other leaders of fishermen led the morcha. Wide publicity was given to this morcha in the media. A representation duly signed by these leaders were send to the ChiefMinister on the behalf of the NFF. At the conclusion of the morcha a meeting was arranged Dhahanu fisheries society. Shri Thomas Kocherry and Harekrishna Debnath emphasized the urgent need to form a combined representation body to put up united fight the proposed port. Accordingly Vadhavan Bandar Virodhi Sangharsh samithi was formed in the meeting held on 18th February 1988, at Palghar fisheries sangh which was attended by the leaders of the Krithi samithy and all the representatives of the local bodies. Shri Rambabu Patil was unanimously elected as the president of this Sangharsh Samithi. In the meeting held on 26th February 1998, strategies to be adopted were finalised.

On 31st March 1998 and in May 1998, memorandum was presented on behalf of the sangarsh samithi to Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority (a Govt. of India Authority) appointed under the government of India, Ministry of Environment and forest Notification No: S.O.884(E) dated 19th December 1996, putting forth in a detailed manner our arguments against the construction of the proposed port. This memorandum was drafted by Shri N. D. Koli in his capacity as the adviser to the Sangharsha Samithi taking into account various aspects concerning ground realties and also legal implication vis a vis the supreme court's order, dated 30th October 1996, in writ petition No 231 of 1994, powers and functions conferred on the said Dhanu Authority CRZ Notification,dated 19th February 1991, and Dahanu Taluka Notification,dated 20th June 1991, apart from the violation of the Regional plan prepared for the Dahanu area and prohibition to change the land user in the ecologically sensitive area in Dahanu. The Dhanu Authority invited the president of the sangharsha samithi for hearing on 13th April 1998. On behalf of this samithi Shri Rambabu patil presented our case. Vide its order dated 13th April 1998, the Dahanu authority directed the state government and the central government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests not to proceed in this matter, in any manner whatsoever, until the matter was finally decided by the authority.

Meanwhile, all India Port and Dock Workers Federation , Hind Mazdoor Sabha and Akhil Bharathiya Bandar and Godi Kamgar Mahasangh, realizing the threat by the proposed port project to the thousands of Dock Workers and Transport workers of the Bombay port, joined hands with the Vadhavan Bandar Virodhi Sangarha samithi fo put up a joint fight against the state governments move to go ahead with the construction of the port. On 13th April 1998 a joint press conference was held. On 15th April 1998, a mammoth Morcha to Manthralaya was organized in which thousands of fishermen, fisher women and others including farmers, adivasis and dye-makers from the affected talukas in Thane district, participated. The Dock workers and transport workers also participated in the Morcha in large numbers. The rally was addressed by the leaders including Sharvashri Prabhakar Chowdhary, Motiram Bhawe, Narayan Patil, Narendhra Patil, Damodar Tandel, Vasant Patil, Kapil Patil apart from Rambabu Patil, Manohar Kotwal, S.R. Kulkarni and lastly by Thomas Kocherry who specially came down to Mumbai to lead the Morcha. Shri

Kocherry demanded immediate cancellation of the proposed Vadhavan Port. At the invitation of the Chief Minister a delegation of the leaders called on him the same day. The demand was pressed for the cancellation of the port. The Chief Minister gave assurance that he would meet the leaders again after the legislature session, which was then going on, got over for full length discussion.

As desired by Shri Thomas Kocherry, memoranda was send to the Prime Minister, Governor of Maharashtra, Central Environmental Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu, Defence Minister Shri George Fernandez, Welfare Minister(Former Environmental Minister) Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Former Central Minister for Environment Shri Saifiddin Soz, M.P's in the coastal region of the Maharashtra Shri Ram Thakur and Shri Shankar Nam, Central Minister of state for Railways Shri Ram Naik, M.P Shri Ram Kapse, urging them to dissuade the Govt. of Maharashtra from going ahead with the port project. The issue was also brought before the State Legislature by contacting some legislators.

Meetings of the Vadhavan Bandar Virodhi Sangarsh Samithi have been/ are being held periodically to work out future strategies. On 4th May 1998 a meeting of the Sangarsha Samithi & the representatives of the Dock & transport workers including Shri Suryakant Bagal was held at Arnala, when Thomas Kocherry was present. Ms. Ritu Diwan, a well known environmentalist & researcher also attended the meeting. Shri Sanjay Mangal Gopal of NAPM was also present. In this meeting, a future course of action to be adopted to stall the state governments move was outlined.

On the occasion of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Arnala Machimar Vivid Karyakari Sahakari Sanstha Ltd. held on 5th May 1998, its Chairman Shri Narayan Patil invited Shri Thomas Kocherry to preside over the function and Harekrishna Debnath to be the Chief Guest. In his speech, Shri Thomas Kocherry gave a call for immediate cancellation of the port project.

On 16th May 1998, the Chief Minister convened a meeting, as promised, for exchanging views on the desirability or otherwise of the Vadhavan Port Project. Members of the Vadhavan Bandar Virodhi Sangarsha Samiti, leaders of the Dock & Transport workers, representatives of the NAPM were invited for the meeting. The state Fisheries Minister, the central Minister of state for Railways Shri Ram Naik, the sitting M.P Shri Shankar Nam, former M.P Shri Vanaga & other concerned government officials were present at the meeting. Our case against the proposed port was ably put forth by the leaders of the Samithi, Dock and Transport workers Unions and NAPM. The Chief Minister promised to discuss the matter again with an open mind.

Meanwhile, a Co-ordination Committee was formed comprising the leaders of the Sangharsha Samithi & Dock & Transport workers unions to keep up the tempo of the agitation against the port project. A seminar was organized in Mumbai in July 1998 on behalf of this co-ordination committee to make people at large aware of the dangers and threats inherent in the port project. Wide publicity in this regard was given in the news papers.

On 13th June 1998, the state Fisheries Minister Shri Narayan Rane visited Vadhavan to explore the possibility of embarking on the port project after ascertaining the views &

feelings of the affected fisherpeople and others. They protested against the move of the state government to go ahead with the port project.

The Dahanu taluka Environmental Protection Authority again gave hearings to our representatives on 25th June 1998 & 3rd Sep. 1998. On a latter date, renowned Advocate Dwarkadas argued our case before the authority.

Under its order No. DTEPA / Vadhavan Port/98, dated Sep. 1998, the Dahanu Taluka Environment protection authority pronounced its unanimous judgement concluding that the construction of such a Mega port at Vadhavan is wholly impermissible and therefore will be illegal. The state government reacted saying that they would have this matter filed before the Mumbai High Court.

On 8th Nov. 1998, in a significant move, the Shiva Sena leader Shri Uddhav Thakre, son of Shiva Sena supremo Shri Balasaheb Thakre, visited Vadhavan to discuss the issue with the local people and ascertain the extend of their opposition to the port project. The office bearers of the Vadhavan Bandar Viridhi Sangharsha Samiti were invited to participate in the discussion. After full length discussion and also on hearing the views of the local people, Shri Uddhav Thakre announced that the feeling of the people who will be affected by the proposed port project will be respected. The next day, however, a statement came from the Chief Minister that the state government has not yet taken a decision on this regard. At this juncture, the P&O company announced its decision to withdraw from the project. The contradictory statements being made by the power centers are baffling. It is, therefore, all the more necessary to be ever vigilant without allowing any laxity to creep in. The Vadhavan Bandra Virodi Sangharsha Samiti is well conscious of this need.

WORLD FISHERIES DAY -21st NOVEMBER 1998

21st November 1998, was the first world fisheries day after the WFF was founded on 21st November 1997, Mumbai was chosen as the venue for celebration of the World Fisheries Day on behalf of the WFF. In this connection Shri Thomas Kocherry and Shri Harekrishna Debnath addressed the meeting held at Cuffe Parade in Mumbai, of the leaders of fishermen, Chairmen of various fishermen's co-operative societies and leading workers from all 5 coastal districts of Maharashtra and gave guidelines for organizing the celebration in terms of the decision taken by the NFF in it's last annual general body meeting viz. focussing four demands 1) Protect the coastal waters and coastal communities 2) Ban factory trawlers 3) Ban industrial aquaculture and 4) Stop coastal industrial pollution. The importance of performing Mangrove pooja was also stressed. The Satpathi Fishermen's Sarvodaya Sahakari Society Ltd. announced at this meeting it's decision to bear the entire expenditure on construction of two big stages for this function.

A state level World Fisheries Day celebration committee was immediatly formed in a meeting held on 6th October 1998, at which leaders and representatives from all five coastal districts were present. Sarvashri Rambabu. K. Patil, N.D. Koli and Narendra Patil were respectively nominated as the President Vice- President and Treasurer of the committee. An action plan for each district was chalked out. Accordingly, campaigns were undertaken in all the five districts and literature, posters, banners, pamphlet etc. With WFF logo prepared for the event were distributed, thus reaching the message and purpose

of the World Fisheries Day to the fishing community in the fishing villages and to the general public.

The celebration committee was duly registered with the Charity commissioner. Having regard to the magnitude of the various activities involved viz. construction of a big size stage, sound and light system, banners, printing of literature, cultural programs, video shooting and photographs, propaganda campaign tours etc, a fund raising drive was undertaken. Every one whole heartedly extended full cooperation and support needed for making the celebration a grand success.

Girgaum Chowpatty, which has a historical significance for the fisherfolk of Mumbai, was selected as the venue for the World Fisheries Day Celebration. Invitations were sent to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Dy. Chief Minister, Fisheries Minister, Cultural Affairs Minister, Local M.L.A's etc apart from fishermen leaders, workers and fishing community in all the coastal districts to attend the World Fisheries Day Function. The World Fisheries Day was presided over by Shri Thomas Kocherry, Shri Ram Naik, Central Minister of state for Railways, Former Dy. Chairman of the Planning commission Shri Madhu Dhandawate, world known environmentalist Ms Medha Patkar, Shri Bhai Bandarkar, Ms. Nargis rani, Fr. Dibretto, Ex MLA Navnitbhai Shah, were on the dias. All of them except Fr. Dibretto and Shri Shah, addressed the gathering. The function was attended by thousands of fisherfolk of fishing villages from coastal areas of the state. The attendance of fisherwomen was very significant. Shri Shaantaran Nandgaokar, a renowned poet, specially composed a welcome song for the function which was presented by the Yuva Kala Manch of Mumbai. Thereafter, Mangrove pooja was performed in a traditional way to the musical tunes of Koli songs.

The World Fisheries Day Celebration was a grand success. Almost all the newspapers and TV media extensively covered the function. The news papers also published photographs of the dancing troupes. The function served the purpose of taking the message of WFF and NFF to the nook and corner of all fishing villages in the coastal areas of the state. It also made them conscious about the dangers posed to the fisheries as a whole as also to the coastal waters and coastal communities by the industrial pollution, Industrial aquaculture, factory trawlers etc. at the national and international levels.

On this occasion, a publication highlighting the importance of mangroves in maintaining the marine ecology was distributed. The book written by Shri Thomas Kocherry entitled "Indian Fisheries over 50 years" was translated into Marathi. Marathi and English copies of the book were made available to the media and kept at the reception counter for distribution. A booklet stressing the importance of CRZ notification was prepared in Marathi by Shri Rambabu Patil. Copies thereof were distributed.

It is necessary to record here that the success of the World Fisheries Day Celebration could not have been achieved but for the untiring efforts and wholehearted co-operation and support of fishermen's leaders and workers including, to mention a few, sarvashri Motiram Bhave, Moreshwar Patil, freedom fighter J.S. Tambe, Ex. M.L.A Narayanarao Bhagat, Dilip Pagdhare, Vasant Nakhwa, Philip Mastan, Ramesh Naik, Vankar, Khadpe, Borkar, Akhade, Govind Bhaoir, Kisan Koli, T.K. Patil, Parshuram Mehar, Prabhakar Chaudhari, B.K. Marde, Baburao Tandel, A.R. Patil & Shri N.D. Koli. The Mumbai and

Thane zilla Madyawartha Sahakari Banks Ltd. & the Bassein Catholic Bank Ltd. also lent financial support.

The accounts of the World Fisheries Day Celebration Committee are being finalised.

The NFF declared 21st November 1998 as a "Fishing holiday". The fishing season during November is generally in swing. It is therefore, felt that the idea of fishing holiday during the month of November will not go well with fishing community. It will be better if the decision to observe 21st Nov. as fishing holiday is left to the state unit. On the World Fisheries Day on 21st Nov. 1998, Shri Tukaram Minde of Maldoli Bhiwadi, Tal. Chiplun, Dist. Ratnagiri, an active worker in our fisheries movement, met with an accident while crossing the railway track at Charni Road station on his way to the venue of the World Fisheries Day Celebration. Unfortunately, he succumbed to his injuries on 24th Nov. 1998. In Shri Minde, we lost a very active & enthusiastic worker.

CELEBRATION OF GOLDEN JUBILEES OF THE FISHERIES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

In Maharashtra, Golden Jubilees of the following Fisheries Co-operative Societies were celebrated.

1. The Satpati Fishermen's Sarvodaya Sahakari Society Ltd.
(on 19th January 1998)
2. Arnala Machimar Vividh Karyakari Sahakari Sanstha Maryadit.
(on 5th May 1998)
3. Mube machimar Vividh Karyakari Sahakari Society Ltd.
(On 13th May 1998)
4. Versova Koli Sahakari Vahatuk Sangh Ltd.
5. Naigaon Machimar Sahakari Sanstha Ltd.

All the above co-operative societies are the primary societies, which have been rendering valuable services to fishermen from the concerned fishing villages by (i) giving production loans at nominal rate of interest (ii) Supplying diesel and other accessories at reasonable rates (iii) Marketing their fish catch at optimum rates etc. Thus co-operative fishermen societies in Maharashtra exercise effective control over the marketing of fish catch. The celebrations of Golden Jubilees of as many as five fisheries cooperative societies in 1998 speak volume for the firm roots the Co-operative movement has taken in the fisheries sector without being influenced by party politics. In other coastal states of India there are owners associations. Crew members cannot become their members. In Maharashtra however, we have fishermen's co-operative societies and the poorest of the active fishermen of fisher women can become their members. This is a significant feature of the fisheries co-operative development in Maharashtra. This influences active involvement of fishermen & fisherwomen in the various movements led by the Maharashtra Machhimar Kriti Samithi and the NFF.

REGISTRATION OF MAHARASHTRA MACHIMAR KRITI SAMITI AS UNION

Our efforts to get the Samithi registered as Union have so far been unsuccessful. Certain technical difficulties have cropped up which have delayed the process of registration. However efforts are being made to get the registration as early as possible.

FELICITATION OF SHRI BHAI BANDARKAR, PRESIDENT, MAHARASHTRA MACHIMAR KRITI SAMITHI, ON COMPLETING 75 YEARS OF AGE.

A State level Committee was formed to felicitate Shri Bai Bandarkar on his completing 75 years of age on 15th April 1998, in grateful recognition of the services rendered by him for the welfare and uplift of the fisherfolk. The felicitation committee was headed by Shri Motiram Bhave was to organize the felicitation function in Mumbai on 15th April 1998 but for some unavoidable reasons, it had to be postponed. The felicitation committee hopes to organize the function in the near future.

LANDING TERMINAL FOR HOVERCRAFT AT CUFFE PARADE FISHING VILLAGE IN MUMBAI

The Government of Maharashtra granted permission to a private company to run hovercraft service from Versova to Cuffe Parade fishing village in Mumbai and back. The landing terminal for the hovercraft was to be the place where the fishermen of the village have their boats anchored. This plan was strongly resisted by the Maharashtra Machimar Kriti Samiti. Shri Rambabu K. Patil led the delegation consisting of Sarvashri Govind Bhoir, Moreshwar Patil, Parshuram Mehar, to the collector of Mumbai & convinced him how the proposed hovercraft service would adversely affect the interests & fishing operations of the local fishermen. A morcha was organised on 2nd January 1998 under the banner of the Kriti Samiti to lodge strong opposition to the plan conceding the stand taken by the Kriti Samiti, the Government of Maharashtra had to abandon the plan.

ENRON HATAVO DHARNA

On 9th January 1998, "Enron Hatavo" Dharna was organised in Mumbai by N.A.P.M. under the leadership of Ms Medha Patkar. The Maharashtra Machimar Kriti Samiti participated in the Dharna. During the Dharna agitation slogans were given against the proposed Vindhavan port to make people aware of our opposition to this port project.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR MAPPING OUT CRZ VIOLATIONS

As decided in the last annual general body meeting, training workshop for the youth in the methodology for documenting CRZ violations was held at Valsad in Gujarat state on 2nd, 3rd & 4th April 1998. Trainees from Maharashtra and Gujarat participated in this workshop which was conducted by Shri D. Nandakumar, Sr. Lecturer, Department of Geography, University College, Thiruvananthapuram & Shri M. Muralikrishnan,

Research scholar, Center for Earth Science Thiruvananthapuram. From Maharashtra six trainees participated in the training workshop. Shri Harekrishna Debnath assisted the lecturers by elucidating the various provisions of CRZ Notification. An Independent training programme was also organised at which Dr. N.D. Chhaya explained with the help of statistics the magnitude of the dangers posed by the CRZ violations. Both the training programs were highly informative and useful.

Since the number of participants from Maharashtra in the Valsad training workshops was not upto our expectation, both Shri Nandakumar & Shri Muralikrishna were requested to conduct a training workshop at Palghar. They readily agreed. The training workshop was organised at Palghar on 13th April 1998. Nearly 25 trainees participated in the workshop & evinced keen interest. Shri N.D Koli & Ms Poornima Mehar assisted the lectures. In the evening Ms. Poornima Mehar assisted the lectures. In the evening Ms. Poornima Mehar took them to a fishing village to have a glimpse of CRZ violations. On the earlier day i.e. on 12th April 1998 Ms. Poornima took the lectures to the coastal area near Satpati & Tarapur Atomic Energy centre. Sarvashri A. R. Patil, J.S. Tambe & Narendra Patil helped in organising the training workshop at Palghar.

A book written by Shri Nandakumar containing critical analysis and implications of CRZ Notification was sent to us well in advance of the training workshops. This book was got translated into Marathi and distributed to the participant trainees and fisheries societies. Based on the training, some CRZ violations were identified and made available to the NFF.

IMPLIMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN 24THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF RAJYA SABHA ON MARINE PRODUCTION, PRESENTED ON 11TH MARCH 1996.

This report contains useful recommendations. The state unite may please be kept apprised of the progress made so far in implimenting them by the concerned Miniatries of the Central govt.

MEAGRE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS MADE FOR FISHING SECTOR IN THE SUCCESSIVE FIVE YEAR PLANS OF THE CENTRE AND THE STATES.

So far as the state of Maharashtra is concerned, the plan provisions made for different schemes in thr fishing sector have been very mearge. In the 8th&9th plans of the state,the provisions made for fishing sector was much less than 1% of the total out lay earmarked in the the Five year Plans In other states also,similar positions may be obtaining. In the Central Five Year Plans also the fishing sector is being neglected while making allocations. It is suggested that the necessary information may be collected at the level of NFF from all the state units for the last 3 Five Year Plans. Similar information may be collected in respect of Central Five Year Plans. This would provide Ministries with necessary data base for taking up this matter with the concerned Central

It may be pointed out here that Shri Ram Naik,while addressing the fisher's gathering

at Girgaun Chowpatty in Mumbai on the occasion of the First World Fisheries Day, said that nearly 60% of the total Central Ninth Five Year Plan is carved out for Agriculture sector & that this would benefit the fishing sector. He did not spell out the extent of the benefit that the fishing sector would derive. The NFF may like to take up this matter with the Central Govt.

ABANDANED DEFECTIVE FOREIGN SHIPS IN THE COAST OF BOMBAY

There are at present about seven abandoned defective foreign ships in the coast of Mumbai. The responsibility of removing them rests with their owners. These vessels contain oil & chemicals hazardous to the marine environment due to spill. The owners however, do not take steps to salvage the ships due to various reasons, including administrative and legal. These ships hinder the fishing activities. Some accidents have also taken place causing damage to boats of fishermen. This situation was brought to the notice of the State Commissioner of Fisheries. But the matter has not so far received any serious attention. This is a serious matter which needs to be taken up with the Central Govt. authorities by the NFF.

PROPOSED NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT REWAS-MANDVA IN RAIGAD

The Govt. of Maharashtra has revived its proposal for a new International Airport at Rewas-Mandva in Raigad Dist. This airport would displace more than 14 villages of farmers and fishermen. A mammoth rally was organised by the local organisations for opposing the proposed airport project. Maharashtra Machhimar Kriti Samiti & the NFF led by Shri Rambhau Patil & Shri Motiram Bhave participated in the agitation.

CYCLONE HITTING THE SHORES OF MUMBAI & THANE COASTS

The cyclone that hit the shores of Mumbai and Thane coasts on 17th & 18th October 1998 on the eve of Diwali festival caused death of three fishermen from Versova fishing village. Two boats from Versova, three boats from Madh and one boat from Satpathi Villages were drowned due to cyclone. Shri Motiram Bhave & Shri Rambhau Patil immediately contacted the Coast Guard Authorities who promptly extended the help through ariel survey and supply of diesel and eatables to the fishermen on the boat of Madh village.

The Chief Minister Shri Manohar Joshi and the fisheries' Minister Shri Narayan Rane visited the affected Versova villages and met the families of the fishermen who lost their lives. The fisheries' Minister also visited Madh. They assured that necessary financial assistance would be given to the affected fishermen & also the owners of the boats; latter through the NCCDC scheme.

MEETING OF THE MAHARASHTRA MACHIMAR KRITI, SAMITI HELD ON 18TH JUNE 1998.

A General meeting of the Kriti Samiti was held in Mumbai on 18th June 1998 which was attended by leaders and representatives of all coastal Distts. in large number. A number of issues were discussed including monsoon trawling, implementation of CRZ

notification, invasion by the foreign fishing vessels, waiving of loans given by govt. to fishermen up to 1975, grant of permission to fishing villages for extension of gaonthas, saving -cum-relief scheme, declaring water bodies, seas, lakes, wet-lands, as the common property of fisher people, declaring scarcity in fish catch, inconvenience caused due to diesel quota system etc. Necessary resolutions were passed & they are being followed up.

Signed:

(Moreshwar Patil)
Secretary

(Motiram Bhava)
Secretary

(Rambhau.K.Patil)
General Secretary.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SAMUDHRA THEERA

MATCHYAKARI MUKULA UNION- JUNE 1998

Samudra Theera Matchyaka Mukula Union

The mechanised boat Workers union members decided to demand an increase of payment, and as a part of their strategy they decided to abstain from work until their demands are met. They were being paid 15% of the profit earned by each boat every month. Now they have kept their demand to increase the wage by 18% of the profit from each boat every month.

There are three major ports where machanised fishing boats operate in Prakasham and Nellore districts. They are Nizampatnam in guntur Dist. , Bandar or Machilipanm in Krishna Dist. and Muthukur in Nellore District. Also in Vadarevu of Chirala, Prakasham Distrist there is one minor port.

All the boat operators of these areas have their own associations, and based upon certain agreements employ labor on their boats.

The workers of the village approached their traditional leaders " The Kapus" and requested them to provide justice. The Kapus said that no one should go for work, until their demands were met. Some workers employed on the mechanized boats went for fishing with Muthukar based owners and who do not belong to the striking group, were beaten up by the struggling group, who began to prevent others also from going to work.

At this stage the boat owners of T.C. Palem approached the villagers of Isukapalli Pattapupalem (Isukapalli is the largest pattapu village and well known for its large R.S.S Cadres) and requested them to arbitrate and also allegedly promised to pay Rs. 5000/- per boat (for the 26 boats there) if the ban by the traditional leaders were lifted. The lure of money is reported to have caused the Isukapalli villagers to decide to suppress the demands of the workers by resorting to force. They were aided and abbetted by pathapalem villagers.

The villages were divided with various interests and there occurred clashes between traditional fishermen themselves and also with the boat owners. There was another issue of pumping sea water to shrimp farms by an MLA and also trapping of wild shrimp fry and it was depleting marine resources. Inspite of several meetings with villages & boat owners no solution could be achieved. Finally they came to the conclusion that the only possibility of solving these problem is pressurizing the Andhra pradesh government to implement the Marine Regulation Act.

On 23rd July, I met Mr. K. Ramalingam, the mandal secretary and together they visited Krishnapatnam, Basinpatnam, and Chinna Arakadu. We met the concerned community leaders. We also met the president of the different fishermen cooperative societies. We gave them the application forms to be submitted to the commissioner of the fisheries regarding the subsidy cum savings schemes to be implemented this year onward. We arranged for a mandal level meeting to elect village secretaries and the mandal

representatives.

The mandal meeting was attended by about 40 persons of whom 34 paid the membership fee of Rs. 14/- and hence a total of Rs.476/- was collected. Since the Nelatoor villagers and Basin villagers were unable to come, it was decided to elect the village secretary Shri Mekala Pllisah as the V.S of Arakkadu Chinnapalem and Sri thupil ramanaiah for Arakadu Peddapalem. The villagers have requested that to make a second visit to enlist more members and to elect the mandal secretary. Other matters that were discussed were,

1. Memorandums to Commissioner of Fisheries regarding savings/ subsidy scheme.
2. Petition to Dist. Collectors regarding Marine Regulation Act.
3. Training programme in September
4. Local issues and action plans to regulate shrimp farms, depletion of drinking water and salinization of drinking water.

DISCUSSION WITH OTHER NGO'S

I have discussed with PREPARE regarding collaboration with us in development of the union especially in mobilization of people and dissemination of informations.

Meeting at Vadarevu

I went to Vadarevu and met Mr. Bondhi Appa Rao, Village secretary who gathered about 30 persons of their locality. We told them about the saving cum subsidy scheme. It appears that there were about 1000 members in the cooperative society, we have also given them the relevant addresses. Regarding enlistment of new members the people decided to enroll around 40 persons.

We explained about the hazards of the ship breaking yard which was planned to be built in Vadarevu. The majority of the members present said that since there is only 1/5 of representations from the village they requested us to come again on 31.07.98. They promised to invite the representatives of the other 4 groups and once again explain about the dangers posed by the ship breaking yard. They all said that it was essential to stop the ship breaking at all costs.

On 31.7.98, we reached vadarevu at 10 a.m and was surprised to see that no one was present. Mr. Appa Rao one Mr. Babulu and another leader were present and Mr. Babulu said that the ship breaking yard was essential to the development of the people. He said that nearly 30,000 people would gain employment and the town ship would also be greatly development. Mr. Appa Rao told us that though many people were convinced that the commissioning of the yard should be stopped, they feared to go against the leaders. Some of the leaders had large tracts of land, which they hope will fetch greater prices if the yard was to be built. It was also alleged that these lands were secured in the name of the fishermen. But, that they were aware of it. I was totally surprised by the votte face of the people when they said that no one wanted to join the union also.

Votte

DISCUSSION WITH REDEMPTION

Mr. David Raju of the REDEMPTION another NGO working with the marine fisherfolk has agreed to support the union work whole heartedly and also promised to depute a worker when ever we visit his area of population.

VETAPALEM MANDAL

We spent the rest of the day in U.S. Palem, Mr.P. Ramulu arranged for a village meeting. We discussed about the savings subsidy scheme, TU membership and about the ship building yard. The elders decided that 20 members should join the union. Regarding the yard the elders felt that the leadership of Kataripalem was essential as it was the largest village. They requested me to visit once again to conduct meetings at Kataripalem, Rudramambapuram and Ramachardrapuram, which also are the big villages.

REPORT ON THE TRAWLER MENANCE

The government of Andhra Pradesh promulgated the Marine Regulation Act in 1994 April 1st. This law has yet to be implemented. The Govt. claims that there is a shortage of funds of personal and equipment. What ever the reason the lacuna created here is leading to frequent out breaks of tension between the traditional fisherfolk and trawler operators.

The Bay of Bengal has fewer quantities of commercial fish, but large shoals of shrimp are available near the shore-line which is relatively shallow. The trawlers which are of late increasing in numbers, have started trawling even 100 mts. from the L.T. Mark, especially at night. They literally mop up the whole area. This effectively means that for the next few days not even a single fish is available for the traditional fishermen.

There are innumerable cases of traditional fishermen's crafts and gears being damaged by the trawlers. These 'accidents' are sometimes deliberate and as most fisherfolk are illiterate they are unable to note down the registration number etc. of the offenders. When the offenses reach a flash point a few fisherfolk villages get together and capture a few boats and make them to pay large amounts as damages. Here again it may be some innocent trawlers paying for the crimes of others. When the registration No. etc are known, the fisherfolk go in large numbers to concerned ports and claim damages. The absence of any intervention by government authorities is a peculiar feature in all these situations.

The trawler operators claim that if 10 mts of ropes are lost the fishermen claim that 50 mts was damaged etc. But the point to be noted here is that, when a small fishermen loses his gear even if is very small amount, he is forced to obtain the losses within a fortnight, during which time his earning is totally lost. So by exaggerating his claims he tries to get a good sum to tide him over during his enforced holidays.

Ultimately one point that clearly emerges is that the marine resources are dwindling rapidly and unless all forms of trawling along the coast line is strictly prohibited, the situation is going to deteriorate rapidly.

In July most of the Aqua farms harvest their crops. Before harvesting they let out the

water from the ponds. The nutrient rich water attracts large number of fish and prawns. The monsoon flood waters also are an additional reason. The availability of fish and prawn near the shore line attracts trawlers. This led to confrontation among the two fractions on the one side, the fisherfolk who have not had any sizeable income from the month of may onwards watching the trawlers making merry, incites resentment. This is why we find seizure of trawlers occurring in this season. The union has been working upon this problem. Leaders of the union visited Hyderabad and submitted memorandums to the various MLA's of the ruling as well as to the opposition parties. Mr. D. Sivaram the leader of the Prakasham Dist. T.D.P. Rights committee introduced the subject in the assembly and the CM had promised to look into the matter. We have recently learned that the department of fisheries will convene a meeting some time in August to finalize the formation of the coast guard etc. and to implement the M.R. Act.

Unless and until the govt fulfills its duties, the task of conserving and protecting of marine resources as well as preserving peace between the two fractions will not work out. One aspect the union is worried about, is the nature of the bureaucracy of the rich trawler owners and to protect the poor fisherfolk. This has led to the existing situation where the fisherfolk have taken the law into their hands.

STRENGTHENING THE UNION

Our efforts to strengthen the union in villages Vetapalwm and Chinnaganjam mandal and other could not be achieved because of the migration of villagers to other places due to the scarcity of fish catch in these areas. The depletion was due to the extensive use of Velo screens to catch "Tiger prawn fry" to supply to shrimp farms, unchecked trawling and wide spread of destruction of mangroves. Another reason for the failure of organization of the village is that many of the fishermen are working on trawlers in places as far away as Vizag &

The voluntary organizations working in this area though they promise to help in the organization do not get involved in the organization of the union. Recently a team of British T.V Filim makers along with the famous Ray Mears who is well known for his "World of Survival" broadcast on B.B.C television was in the area to make a documentary on traditional peoples practices. They were unable to make the documentary because they were not able to find any fishing in all the villages we visited. Mr. Michael York the director told me that he felt the community appeared defeated in more than one way. In a way this may be the truth and thus complicates our efforts to strengthen the union. As part of our attempt we are encouraging the fisherfolk to demand for the saving cum subsidy scheme to be implemented. They are sending petition to the commissioner of Fisheries and to the A.D. Fisheries. We are providing them with typed formats which they are filling up, signing and posting. We also encourage them to take up the following activities.

- 1 Enrolment of Members
- 2 Election of village secretaries
- 3 Election of Mandal Secretaries
- 4 Dissemination of Information

There have been a spate of violent clashes between the fisherfolk in various villages. The main cause for these clashes has been the political rivalry between the ruling Telugu Desham party and the congress. In the past most of the fisherfolk supported any party that the village elders had decided to support, the emergence of a few educated youth in many villages and their revolt against the elders is what is dividing the community. In spite of the kapus of 95 villages meeting together and agreeing to stop violent confrontations, they have not been able to keep the community together. Even in the village of Madanur from where Mr. P. Ramalingam the president of the union comes, there have been violent clashes and Mr. P. Ramalingam was also arrested (in spite of his absence at the time of the clash). He was arrested because he was the head of the congress fraction. It is very difficult to intervene in these clashes because the fisherfolk will not listen to or even allow any outsiders to intervene.

We have also been involved in data collection of large Aquafarmers who have converted agricultural lands into Aqua ponds. One problem of getting relevant data has been the reluctance of many people to speak out. This is because of the belligerent attitude of the Aqua farmers in many areas. Small and marginal farmers and scheduled caste farmers have been reported to be fronting for larger syndicates. This angle has to be followed up to see if the reports are exact and to examine the extent of such cases. One fact that emerges clearly is that where ever there is a large farm owned by people from outside the district, it has been found that he / they are related to some big bureaucrat or politician.

STRIVE IN FISHERFOLK VILLAGES

Clashes in Nelator, Arakkadu in Nellore district because of TDP congress rivalry which have led to severe consequences for many villagers. In Madanuru, Ramalingam's village the simmering tensions led to a violent clash, due to which Ramalingam was also put in jail. In Nelator and Arakadu the police had to open fire on the mob to quell the riot. In Mypadu village the third kapu a traditional leader is bed ridden for his life as his Achilles tendons have been severed and two members of the opposite group have been hacked to death. Due to this the work in these mandals has slowed down. The fisherfolk being interrelated, where ever we go the people are discussing more about these clashes.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

A two day training program was arranged for the staff of the NGO's working with us. This training was at Ongole on the 8th & 9th of October. The subjects were

- 1 Marine Fisheries and practices on the East and West coast.
- 2 The Marine Regulation Act in different states.
- 3 Concepts of unionisation.

The training program was conducted by Mr. Jawahar.

Similarly there was a one day training program on the CRZ Regulation and how to map infringements of the Act. This training was conducted by me at Ongole on 18th of this

month. The survey and mapping of CRZ violations in Nellore district have been sent to the NFF as requested by them.

DHARNA

It was decided that some NGOs and other community based organizations will partake in a Dharna organized at Delhi by PREPARE. This dharna will be from the 4th to 7th of November 1998.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

Totally 85 members have been enrolled in the union and the election of village secretaries have been completed. The details are as follows.

1	Kudithipalem Pallipalem	30 persons.
2	Ramudupalem Pallipalem	40 persons.
3	Musalaiah Pallipalem	15 persons.

REPORT OF THE KERALA SWATHAHTHRA MATSYA THOZHILALI FEDERATION - 1998

The year 1998 was a remarkable one for KSMTF through its various program and struggles. The most important event during the year was the celebration of the World Fisheries Day. We are proud that we were able to join twenty-one other organizations all around the world to assert our rights. Another remarkable event was the national struggle to include women and inland fishworkers in the family cum relief scheme, where women took a leading role in the 15 day continuous satyagraha in front of the secretariate.

STRUGGLE AGAINST TRAWLERS

From 1981 every year, struggle against trawling during the monsoon was going on but now in 1998 the struggle was nation wide at the call of NFF to all the states. In response thousands of fishworkers picketed the Account Generals Office on May 27th 1998. As usual 45 days ban was declared. Along with this A. Balakrishnan Nair Committee was appointed to study the issue. The fisherpeople sensed the under cover move to reduce the duration of the ban. Hundreds of postcards were sent to the commission protesting against their move.

COASTAL REGULATION ZONE NOTIFICATION

An awareness program was organised all through the coastal districts and inland area to demand the authorities to implement the CRZ notification after removing hurdles regarding the housing for fishermen within 500 meters of HTL.

STRUGGLE FOR KEROSENE

Struggles were organized in most of the districts demanding more permits and increase in quota of kerosene to the outboard motors. State committee and District committee organised dharna & fasting in front of Collectorates and secretariat.

STRUGGLE TO INCLUDE WOMEN AND INLAND FISHERMEN IN FAMINE CUM RELIEF SCHEME

KSMTF joined the nation wide struggle to include women and inland fishworkers in the famine cum relief scheme. KSMTF started the struggle on July 1st and continued till the 15th. The 15 day struggle proved the organizational strength of the women also their courage and perseverance. The struggle helped to develop the leadership qualities of women. Baby Mercy, Chinna Joseph, Sophy Yesudas, K.P. Safia, C.K.Zeeneth, Veni, Leila Aliyarkunju, Girly Antony and Pushpam Antony gave the leadership for the secretariat march, Satyagraha for 15 days, Assembly march, Picketings, Torch processions etc. During the satyagraha food materials (Rice,) fuel was collected from various friends and was cooked at the satyagraha site by the satyagrahis. The struggle was stopped after the Central & State Government gave word to look into the issue but till date the scheme has not been implemented. Thiruvananthapuram corporation and District Panchayath in the name of people's planning introduced a special scheme for women. This was a great achievement of the struggle.

WORLD FISHERIES DAY CELEBRATIONS

(a) EVALUATION

We organized campaigning, district level and the state level conventions, vehicle rally together with street play all over in Kerala, state level fisheries exhibition and cultural program highlighting fisheries issues, competitions to recognize and award skills of coastal youth/ children, public rally followed by public meeting. Another important one is that the mangrove forestation and rituals for life forms.

The message of the WFF was properly conveyed. well reached to all those concerned and was able to make the public better understand the need for sustainable management of fisheries.

So also we could able to form 4 new units through the process of WFF campaign.

(b) FUTURE PLAN

In the coming years more massive programs will be planned and organized on the basis of this year's experience.

I. ABOUT THE ARTICLES

a) *Aquaculture*

We are not agreeing with this point at all. Aquaculture is one of our acute problem in Kerala. The Aquaculture efforts in Allapuzha, Ernakulam, Trichur, Calicut, Malappuram and Kollam districts in Kerala would be badly affect the sustainability of fishery resources. This issue is addressed among with other issues such as overcapacity of fishing fleets, depletion, labor problems etc.

b) *Unitary system*

We always respond emerging issues that are relevant to fisheries sector based on our conviction. It is only through the democratic processes (through the taluk, district and state) we get involved on various issues. There are incidents where the directives from state committee are rejected by district or even taluk committes is the clear evidence of democratic process.

c) *Women's participation*

Women participation is always ensured both at membership level as well as leadership level. The fifteen days agitation on lean months savings- cum- relief scheme effectively organised and spearheaded by a team of union leaders such as Baby Mercy, Sophy, Laila Aliyarkunju, Pushpam Antony, C.K. Zeenath, K.P. Safia, Sr. Philomine Marie, C. Veni, Sr. Therma, Chinna Joseph, Kunjumary, Pushparani etc.

As part of World Fisheries Day celebration a vehicle rally along the coast of Kerala and the inland sector together with a street play was organized by a group of women leaders and Baby Mercy spearheaded the rally.

d) *The term Harvester*

The word harvester and fishworker is a broader term inclusive of all 32 countries the world over so as to ensure our unity for the conservation and the management of aquatic resources. The spirit behind the word than its dictionary meaning is more important. The fishworkers and convinced about the holistic meaning of the world.

e) *Fisheries Day*

What ever be the term this was an opportunity for the fishworker to discuss their basic issues and recognition of the fishworkers that the aquatic resources can be conserved and managed properly.

f) *Entry of new persons*

This day is the day for those who stand for the common cause. Historically who ever joined with us, support our efforts, and raise our slogan, we welcome them warmly.

g) *Caste and Class*

We cannot distinguish two dimensions of caste and class which are interconnected with each other.

h) *A.K. Antony as the main speaker*

We do not have any leaning with any of the political parties. Without loosing our identity we interact and make issue based alliances with those who expressed their solidarity with us. On World Fisheries Day program we invited all political parties, trade unions, NGO's, Govt. and other concerned organizations and even religious organizations. Unfortunately the CITU (left parties union) only had withdrawn. But at the same time all other trade unions including CPI cooperated with us.

i) *Peoples participation*

We organized various programs which are well conceived by all those concerned and the participation was very good. The message of WFF was also reached to all concerned.

KSMTF would always mobilize more people than that of any other political trade unions in Kerala's fisheries sector.

OTHER STRUGGLES

The people of Chavara in Kollam district were against the Indian Rare Earth Company's mining in Chavara. They protested and organized the people against it. Many of their leaders were arrested and remanded. Many of them were also beaten up. KSMTF participated in many of their struggles and discussion meetings.

KSMTF participated in the NTPC struggle at Kayamkulam- Kollam district.

At Ernakulam KSMTF participated in the struggle against reclamation of the lake and organized struggle for drinking water.

KSMTF together with other organisations organized various struggles like Dharna at secretariat, picketing the railways and highways etc, for making breakwater at Muthalapozhi in Thiruvananthapuram district

At Kollam KSMTF organized struggles for housing project.

NAPM

KSMTF took a leading role in all the struggles & programs organised by NAPM. The state level convention was hosted at the KSMTF Office in Valiyathura Thiruvananthapuram.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LABOUR (NCL)

Five representatives from KSMTF participated in the workshop organized by NCL at Chennai on March 1998.

TFU & KSMTF jointly conducted 2 day seminars on leadership development.

The following memorandums were given to the concerned persons.

1. The problem of fisher women in the market.
2. Kerosene permit & quota for out board motors.
3. To democratize & make effective the people planning.
4. Implement the CRZ Notification.
5. Demand to have Fisheries Ministry at the centre.
6. To effectively implement the welfare projects.
7. To give the unpaid pension to pensioners.
8. To start fisheries school for girls.
9. To build break water at Mothalapozhi.
10. To implement the Famine cum relief scheme for women and inland fishworkers.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY OF NFF

Mr. T. Peter, P.P. John, Thomas Kocherry, Baby Mercy, S.James participated in the annual general body meeting of the NFF at Vasi- Mumbai.

STATE COMMITTEE

During the year six state committee meetings were held.

As you read through these pages, you will see, in organizing and implementing our plans lot of our time and energy had to be spend. In many of our struggles thousands of fisherpeople participated. To mobilize them was a Herculean task. We remember with gratitude all those who took leadership in these efforts. Our thanks also go to all those who helped us generously with finance and goods especially during the World Fisheries Day Celebrations and during our 15 day satyagraha for including women and Inland fishworkers in the famine cum relief scheme.

T.PETER
(President)

P.P.JOHN
(General Secretary)

Speech of Thomas Kocherry
on the occasion of the prize ceremony of the Sophie Foundation
June 15, 1999, Oslo, Norway.

Dear chairperson and friends,

First of all I want to thank the Sophie Foundation for honouring me with the Sophie Prize. In particular I thank Jostein Gaarder for creating the Foundation for honouring such ventures to recognise and to encourage re-imagining a world where every human being is equal in opportunities; without discrimination on the basis of caste, class, creed, religion or gender. Please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Today we are in the context of GLOBALIZATION - LIBERALIZATION. The words look very attractive, but the vast majority of the people, are the victims of Globalisation. Globalisation began with COLONIALISM. In the sixteenth century Europe was overpopulated and the people began to migrate from Europe to other continents as if they were discovering new places. It ended up with conquering other places and people. Sword and Cross went together. They forcefully enslaved and converted natives and indigenous peoples. They conquered lands, exploited the resources and accumulated wealth.

In the 20th century, the world witnessed the uprising of peoples for political freedom. However economic exploitation continued through Multi-National Corporations (MNCs) and Trans-National Corporations (TNCs). But the rich and the ruling class of the newly freed 3rd world countries generally sided with the MNCs for their own advantage, against the interest of the common people. Again the natives and the indigenous peoples were the worst hit. As a result, according to a UN study, today 20% Northern minority of humankind has:

- 82.7% of world gross national product
- 81.2% of world trade
- 94.6% of all commercial lending
- 80.5% of all domestic investment
- 80.6% of all domestic savings
- 94.0% of all research and development

It is in this context that we should understand GLOBALIZATION today. Those who have more are bound to get more. This means more accumulation and centralisation. The Northern 20% people are better placed to take away even the 10-20% of the wealth in the hands of 80% people in the South. The real Centre is G8 countries and of course the USA is the real centre of the centre. They are wielding POWER of WEALTH and ARMS. They are placed in a better position for quick profit at the expense of the vast majority of people and the environment. All the rest are in the periphery. Thus, PHERIPHERALIZATION of the vast MAJORITY is the other side of Globalisation.

In the period following de-colonisation and political independence of the Third World (South) countries particularly after world war II, the international relationships among the countries at bilateral and multilateral levels were considered very important and viewed as mutually beneficial. This language and practice seems to be in the wane today. The Northern MNCs want to take over the control of UN. If the UN does not dance according to their tune they

will not give their share. They are more interested in strengthening the WTO than the UN. They talk of DEMOCRACY and HUMAN RIGHTS but they have NO CONCERN FOR PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH. Market economy determines everything, there is no other value in life. MONEY HAS MORE VALUE THAN PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH. The UN has become a weak instrument. Globalisation is beneficial to those who have. All those who are have-nots are the victims. Globalisation is a mechanistic process (and therefore most easily manipulatable by the wielders of power) in the face of which there is no choice and alternative. This is the most insidious aspect of this ideology: that it could present itself as the only possible way of being. It creates a certain sense of inevitability and absoluteness. Outside Globalisation-and Market Economy, there is no salvation.

Let me show how this is true as regards the fisheries sector. In the 1990s fishing reached the point of diminishing returns. Many fish populations have fallen to levels from which they can no longer recover without significant reductions in the catches or a moratorium on fishing. There are simply too many boats catching too many fish. The first surge in numbers of fishing vessels occurred during the industrial revolution. This upwell tapered off during the two world wars, but boomed again in the 1950s through 1970s. The world's fishing fleet doubled between 1970 and 1990.

More than 100 million people in developing countries (South) are dependent on fisheries for our livelihoods. For us fishing is a way of life, not just a source of income. The Sea is our MOTHER. Traditionally, small-scale or artisanal fishers have provided fish for local consumption; but as fish becomes scarce and its value increases, it enters the global market and becomes unaffordable for common people. In the process we are displaced and the MNCs take over completely.

Most governments, particularly of the North, are trying to prop up an unsustainable fishery. According to the FAO, every year governments world wide pay US \$ 116 billion to catch just \$ 70 billion worth fish. Developed nations, which have over fished their own waters, have headed into the waters of the developing nations. The European Union (EU) has around 40% more vessels than necessary to catch fish on a sustainable basis. Volatile 'fish wars' are a common place. There are more than 1 million large industrial fleets in the world. They have depleted all the oceans in the world. They have become a threat to the 100 million fisher people in the world. Further these have organic link with the coastal mono shrimp culture. The fresh fish caught by the industrial vessels are converted into fishmeal for the production of shrimp. Ten thousand tons of fish that would have been available for common people are converted into fish-meal to produce one thousand tons of shrimp that only the rich can afford to buy. Further coastal shrimp industry depletes fishing grounds, salinates drinking water, destroys mangroves and displaces fisher people and agriculturists who depend on these resources for their livelihood. Further, the North American Free Trade Agreements (NAFTA) have shifted polluting industries to the coastal belts of the developing nations, threatening the very lives of small fishing communities who are totally dependent on fishing and fishing alone.

All over the world the victims of Globalisation -the small fishing communities- are realising the need of coming together to establish our right to life. We want to establish our right as persons. The World Forum of Fish harvesters and Fishworkers is the result of this realisation. The Forum is involved in a campaign to establish the right of the fishing

communities to own the water-bodies, including seas and rivers, fishing implements and distribution of the catch. The management of the distribution of the catch should be done by the fisherwomen. We have declared November 21 as WORLD FISHERIES DAY to claim and to campaign for this right. We wish to establish our right by exercising our duty, even through struggles and sacrifices. The 10 million fisher people in India were able to change the government policy of Joint and Lease Fishing through long standing struggles. The Canadian Fisher People have been fighting against huge fishing vessels. The Gloucester Fisherpeople in the USA, particularly the wives of fishermen, have succeeded in banning factory trawlers through a legislation. In Senegal, fisher people are on a war path against destructive fishing. In Brazil the fisherpeople are involved in a struggle against predatory fishing. In Pakistan and in South Africa the fishing communities are struggling to establish their right to life. Thus the fisher people both in the North and South, who are victims of Globalization, are involved in establishing a new paradigm of Development and Politics. We, the fisher people in India, are part of a larger alliance - the National Alliance of Peoples Movements (NAPM)- all of whom are victims of Globalization. There are over 150 peoples movements in this alliance, not only struggling to survive, but searching for alternatives to the present form of development which in the long run is destructive for all. It is through these struggles that the whole of humanity is going to be saved. True development is not by conquering and enslaving, not by accumulating and centralizing, not by displacing peoples and destroying cultures. True development is only by integrating and working together, through distributive justice and decentralisation by nurturing and including Native and Indigenous peoples.

It is here that the struggles of the victims of mega dams in India can be understood. There are 3600 mega dams in India. These have displaced 50 million natives, tribals and fisherpeople and have proved to be MASS DESTRUCTIONS rather than DEVELOPMENT. These victims are involved in a long standing struggle to create a new paradigm of DEVELOPMENT, where native skills and technologies are enhanced, small is accepted as beautiful and sustainable and simplicity has become a way of life with due respect to native cultures. We have gone to the extent of JALASAMATHI- sacrificing ourselves in the rising reservoirs- rather than inflicting violence upon others, for the creation of this new paradigm. Right now, about 400 leaders, representing different movements in India - Farmers, Fishworkers, People displaced by the Narmada project and others- are in Europe campaigning against MNCs, TNCs and the WTO. For the first time such a mass campaign is taking place. The victims of GLOBALIZATION are asserting their rightful place in this planet. We feel an urgent need to create a new paradigm of development and politics, a paradigm in which all human beings have right to live, with equal access to the resources and opportunities. Development cannot be measured solely by the quantity of production, but by its sustainability by its capacity to protect the livelihood of all human beings. Production should be coupled with distributive justice. There is no Development for the sake of Development. True Globalisation should make free movement of labour unhindered by national boundaries. Let the year 2000 be a real Jubilee Year; let the debts of the developing countries be wiped out; and let all nations experience true freedom and equality.

THE LIFE OF THE PLANET AND THE DEPENDENT HEALTH AND WELFARE OF HUMANITY MUST NOT BE SACRIFICED TO THE GREED OF THE FEW.

Thomas Kocherry

**Oslo
June 15, 1999**

GLOBALISATION AND MARGINALIZATION

A CHALLENGE TO THINK GLOBALLY AND ACT GLOBALLY

Thomas Kocherry
General Co-ordinator

World Forum of Fish-harvesters and Fishworkers

Globalisation

To day we are in the context of Globalisation. The process of Globalisation has ensured the free movement of capital. Market determines investment and production; but market in the context of Globalisation is not the basic needs of the people, but the artificially created needs. Market has no other value than Money. People have no value. Common peoples' basic needs and aspirations have no value. Those with money look for ways and means of making more money and go ahead to achieve their purpose by hook or by crook. While free movement of capital is promoted, labourers are not free to move. There is no Distributive Justice and Ethics. They forcefully enslaved and converted natives and indigenous people to their own religion and culture. They conquered lands, destroyed cultures, exploited natural resources (Natural capital) and accumulated wealth. The overpopulation and unemployment of Europe was overcome through migration of peoples (from Europe) to all the continents in the world.

In the 20th century, the world witnessed the uprising of people for political freedom. Most of the countries have won the political freedom. But economic exploitation continued through Multinational Corporations (MNCs) and Trans National Corporations TNCs. Unfortunately, the rich and the ruling class of the newly freed 3rd world countries are siding with the MNCs and TNCs for their own advantage. Again the natives, the indigenous people and the fisher people are the worst hit. Though the concept and the practice of political freedom was accepted and promoted, economic control and the exploitation of Natural Capital continues through the MNCs and the TNCs.

As a result according to a UN study 20% of Northern Minority of humankind has 80% of the World's wealth and resources. And the 80% of Southern Majority have only 20% of the world's wealth and resources. 94% of all research, development, and technology are in the hands of the northern minority. It is in this context that we should understand Neo Globalisation and Neo Liberalism. Those 'haves' are bound to get more. This means more accumulation and centralisation. The whole point of Neo Liberalism is that the market mechanism should be allowed to direct the fate of human beings. The economy should dictate its rules to society not the otherway round. "To allow the market mechanism to be sole director of the fate of human beings and their natural environment would result in the demolition of society" P73, 'The great Transformation in 1944, by Karl Polanji

Market Economy and Globalization

In the period following de-colonisation and political independence of the Third World (South) countries particularly after World War II, the international relationships among the countries at bilateral and multilateral levels were considered very important and viewed as mutually beneficial. This language and practice seems to be in the wane today. The Northern MNCs

put a lot of pressure on the UN and want to take control of it. If the UN does not dance according to their tune they will not give their share. They are more interested in strengthening the WTO than the UN. This has effectively blunted the sensitivity of the UN to the crying needs of the poor all over the world. UN arms such as the ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO etc, which were the human face of the UN are making less and less impact due to various policies and created shortage of funds. The MNCs and the TNCs and the developed nations talk of DEMOCRACY and HUMAN RIGHTS but they have no concern for people in the SOUTH particularly the poor. The UN has become a weak instrument for justice and peace and is in the process of becoming an instrument of Globalisation. Globalisation is beneficial to those who have. All those who are have-nots are the victims. Globalisation is a mechanistic process. It does not take into account human relationships and purpose and meaning in life and therefore it is easily manipulatable by the wielders of power. The mechanistic process of Globalisation, once it is started, automatically affects every area of life leaves us with no choice and alternative. This is the most insidious aspect of this ideology: that it could present itself as the only possible way of being. It creates a certain sense of inevitability and absoluteness. Outside Globalisation, and Market Economy, there is no salvation.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY is also in the hands of the POWERFUL AND THE RICH. They use this technology to wield maximum power and exploitation not only in a nation but globally. Needs are created through unbridled use of Information Technology, creating artificial markets to sell products.

Technology and Globalisation

Globalisation cannot be understood apart from its underlying technological foundation. The technological foundation of Globalisation is the age of electronics particularly of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. The technology-enabled globalisation reaches its highest expression in software's, Internet, emails, TV etc. A world Market demands world standards. For creating a world-market, a "world-culture" is projected. The Information Technology promotes a kind of World -U.S culture at the expense of local, national and regional expressions. Regional and native expressions of life and creativity is no longer encouraged in this so called world-culture and uniform standards. Everyone is forced to fall in line in a stereo-typed life style and uniform standards; a harmonisation of understanding about property rights especially in the realm of 'information products'. With the destruction of the value of people and the worth of their labour, polarisation takes place. This polarisation is not just between the rich North and the impoverished South, but also between the rich and the poor of any country and region. Within the US itself, the polarisation is greater than at any time since the 1920s. If there is no Distributive Justice, all these technologies will accelerate the accumulation and centralisation of Wealth. That is why the richest person in the World is the owner of Microsoft. In the computer software industry, the US dominates the World Market with a two-thirds global market share. Software firms have exported much of their production work to Asia, in order to take advantage of much lower wages. Moreover, there is a close link between this kind of warped development, accumulation and centralisation on the one hand and Militarisation on the other. This process has been managed by Militarisation particularly by the control of atomic weapons. The colossal amount of money spent to produce these atomic weapons of MASS Destruction's would have otherwise been used for the creation and conservation of life all over the world. Thus,

these weapons are made out of the BLOOD MONEY of the people of the South. The information technology is not only a by-product of this MASS DESTRUCTION process but it is at the service of mass destruction. It is not a means of protecting life, but a means of destroying life. In fact, not only information technology but also all the latest technology has been developed along with MASS DESTRUCTIONS like missiles testing, transporting atomic weapons etc.

Globalisation and Fisheries

Now turning to the fisheries in India, from time immemorial the fisher people have been the defenders and protectors of the coastal territories of India from all foreign invasions and other external threats. Generally we are very strong and lead a very risky life. We are great hunters even of sharks. From the time of Independence in 1947, India has attempted to modernise its economy rapidly, inspired by the technological progress of the North. Ignoring the skills and potentialities of the large number of traditional fisher people, the government promoted foreign technologies like bottom trawling, again a war technology to discover mines at the bottom of the sea, misapplied to fishing resulting in indiscriminate, unsustainable and destructive fishing. This depleted the life resources and displaced the traditional fisher people who depend on these life resources. Deforestation due to industrialisation and other encroachments, Construction of Mega Dams, pollution of water siltation and other reclamation Shrimp Aquaculture, all these have drastically reduced fish availability and livelihood of fishing communities in India. All these ventures are taken up by the MNCs and the TNCs in the name of development. The net result: on the one hand quick profit to the big investors who can easily close down their business after the depletion of resources and begin to invest in something else more profitable and on the other hand, complete loss of livelihood and displacement for peoples who lived off these natural resources while caring and nurturing the same.

This threat to our very livelihood has forced the fisher people to forge new linkages and organise ourselves to face the threats. The National Fishworkers' Forum was the result of such efforts in India. Through a long chain of hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, picketing national high ways, railway lines, airports, government offices, blocking harbours etc the fisher people were able to obtain marine fishing regulation. Through ongoing struggles the fisher people forced the governments to bring about zonal regulations for the mechanised boats, night trawling ban, purse seine ban, etc the struggles of the fisherwomen against their displacement from net making as a result of imported Japanese machines need special mention. In 1989 the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) organised a massive environmental march called Kanyakumari March with a slogan-'PROTECT WATERS PROTECT LIFE. The large gathering of fisher people in Kanyakumari to high light their problems, including the threat of the proposed nuclear power plant at Koodamkulam in collaboration with Russia, led to police firing. While uniting all local movements of the fisherpeople is essential; it is equally essential to see our problems in a much larger context of struggles by other dispossessed groups. Therefore, today there is a new alliance of all movements of the dispossessed in the country called National Alliance of people's movements.

In the 1990s fishing reached the point of diminishing returns. Many fish populations have fallen to the levels from which they can no longer recover without significant reductions in the catches or a moratorium on fishing. There are simply too many boats and ships to catch a limited fish resource in the world. The first surge in numbers of fishing vessels

occurred during the industrial revolution. These upwell tapered off during the two world wars, but boomed again in the 1950s through 1970s. The world's fishing fleets doubled between 1970 and 1990.

For us fishing is a way of life, not just a source of income. The sea is our mother. Traditionally, small scale or artisanal fishers have provided fish for local consumption, but as fish becomes scarce, its value increases. It enters the global market and becomes unaffordable to common human being. In the process, we are displaced and the MNCs take over completely. Most governments particularly of the North are trying to prop up an unsustainable fishery. According to the FAO, every year governments world wide pay US\$ 116 billion to catch \$70 billion worth fish. The European Union has around 40% more vessels than necessary to catch fish on a sustainable basis causing 'fish wars'. These huge fishing fleets have depleted all the oceans in the world displacing the fishing communities all over the world depending on these life resources.

Myth of Information Technology

At the same time the information technology has created a myth that it is totally free, that it is a revolutionary change. Everybody has access to it. No control whatsoever. All the old thinking is gone and a free technology is in the progress. There is no centralisation. This is the myth created by the information technology. The politics of information technology is supposed to be highly decentralised. All are in the age of push-button-electron. The world has entered into a new culture where there is no labour. Everything can be done in the room. This is the myth of information technology.

Though the vast majority of people in the world are displaced by the so-called MNCs, Politics and Development, from the life resources of water, land, and forest, they will get information technology! First of all the majority of the people in the world have no access to the so-called computers, emails, Internet etc. A small group in the world particularly in the NORTH will be controlling all these. Even the few rich in the SOUTH who have access to these will not be as fast as the people in the NORTH. The faster you are the greater is your profit. So the biggest beneficiaries are Military people, the holders of Missiles, Atomic weapons, MNCs and TNCs.

Information Technology Alienates People from Human Interaction

Information technology makes people to remain closed inside a room. Everything can be done within the four walls of a room. But what is sacrificed is human interaction. For a normal growth of an individual you need community and society. Human interaction and the need for one another are basic conditions for a normal growth of human person. This person assimilates values like Justice, Sacrifice, the need for one another, ethics, love and so on, through human interactions. If these values are missing in a person, the very person becomes neurotic and problematic. This will lead to total collapse of a society, particularly when they decide the future of humankind. Information technology has to address these problems.

Movement of Capital-yes, movement of Labour-no

During the Colonial period there was movement of capital along with movement of labour. But today in the new Globalisation era movement of capital is free, but the movement of

labour is not allowed. It is controlled by the Nation state theory. In fact the movement of people saved European over population and unemployment. But the very same people, who migrated to all the continents, are now saying that freedom of movement of labour is not allowed. Globalisation is essentially a manifestation of the expansionary needs of the developed industrial world (the first world), and it is being pushed into the Third World policy agenda by international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF. The penetration is as much through power structures as it is through a management of discourse. Democratic mandates of Governments are increasingly considered irrelevant to the economic policy making. Multilateral aid agencies are exercising enormous power in the framing of policies for the third world countries, thanks to the Information Technology Revolution! The fundamental difference between Old Colonialism and Neo colonialism is that mobility of people was free in the first, whereas mobility of people is vehemently opposed to in the second.

Distorted Development and Globalisation

The process unleashed by globalisation is pushing the Third World further towards distorted development. Growth (only growth) has been offered a new legitimacy, whereby its relationship to development is ignored. The possibility of distributive logic shaping developmental priorities is rapidly disappearing; planning and policy have lost their credibility. They do not understand that the growth Model Development depletes Natural Capital. It is not sustainable. The growth Model Development destroys environment and displaces people. Growth is achieved for a few at the expense of destruction and Displacement of the vast majority. Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, excessive use of energy intensive modes of production, legitimisation of concentration of economic power in terms of commitment to growth imperative and a weak sense of obligation towards the needs of the poor and the marginalised sections of society earmark such development.

The Victims of Globalisation: Feast or Famine

The vast majorities who are the victims of Globalisation also have no access to the information technology. Those who have access to the information technology will increase their wealth. So the gap between those who have access and those who have not will increase day by day. There is no meeting point at all. The information Technology has to address this problem at all levels.

The vast majority of people in the world are struggling to survive. The basic needs of people like food, cloth, shelter, education, and health are not met. Has information technology anything to do with this? Today more and more activists are also using information technology to gain support for their struggles against Destructive Development and the politics of MNCs and TNCs. At least some centres of Information should pass on these to the Majority of people in the world to step up their struggles. Information technology should be made use of to counter all forms of destruction of life, accumulation of wealth and exploitation of all kinds. It has to expose class contradictions, gender contradictions, Development contradictions, and environmental contradictions. This has to pass on to the people at large to step up their struggles against all forms of contradictions. The Natural Capital - land, water and forest has limitation and it cannot grow. Similarly, fish resource has a Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). Petroleum resource, too, cannot grow. The

growth model development can be achieved only by depleting these natural resources (capital). Thus a development with ZERO GROWTH alone can be sustainable. But true production and development has to be coupled with distributive Justice and Purpose.

Neither a society nor a world can survive that is based on the principle of feast and famine—feast for the few who have more than enough of the common resources at the expense of famine for those who have little or nothing of them.

Information technology in itself

Information Technology in itself will not ask the question: what is to be communicated? What is the content of communication? Who is using it? For what purpose? Is there any value involved? All these questions must be raised. The victims of Globalisation must raise these questions. And we have to respond to these questions. This is the only way the whole society is going to survive. In this we have to make use of Information technology to communicate fast these questions and answers. In a critical way we must make use of Information Technology for a change that affects all humankind.

Information Technology has to concentrate on Renewable Energy like Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Wave Energy and so on. Information technology should be used to sustain the local struggles to protect the Natural Capital. Local struggles are a must to protect the Natural Capital. This is the only way we can protect the small communities all over the world. However our fight against global centralisation and accumulation by the MNCs and TNCs has to be fought globally. In this information technology has a great role to play.

The Victims of Globalisation - in fisheries

The victims of Globalisation have realised the need for establishing their rights. For example, the World Forum of Fish harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF) is the result of this realisation. This Forum is involved in a campaign to establish the rights of fishing communities to own water bodies, fishing implements, and the distribution of fish. This campaign comes into sharp focus on WORLD FISHERIES DAY, November 21 every year.

The 10-million fisher people in India were able to change the government policy of Joint and lease fishing through long standing struggles. The Canadian Fisher people have been fighting against huge fishing vessels and ITQs, Moratorium on fishing and reduction of small fishing vessels and small fishing communities. The Gloucester Fisher people in the USA, particularly the wives of fishermen, have succeeded in banning factory trawlers through legislation. In Senegal, fisher people are on a warpath against destructive fishing. In Pakistan the fisher people have succeeded in changing the Joint Venture fishing policy. In Chile, Argentina the fisher people stopped the introduction of ITQ system. In South Africa the traditional and artisanal fisher people are asserting themselves of their political right to exist. We the fisher people in India, are part of a larger alliance called the National Alliance of Peoples Movements (NAPM), all of whom are victims of Globalisation. There are over 150 peoples movements in NAPM, not only struggling to survive but searching for alternatives to the present form of development which in the long run is DESTRUCTION FOR ALL. Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Movement) is part of NAPM in India is involved in a life and death struggle. There are 3600 Dams in the river Narmada,

which have displaced about 50 million tribals. They are displaced from the life resources. They are in a struggle to establish that water bodies and forest belong to them. Nobody on earth can challenge their right. The struggle is to establish this natural right. This local and national struggle has a global dimension. Similarly there are Peoples Global Action (PGA), where people are on local actions and global actions against MINCs, TNCs and WTO. It is through these struggles that the WHOLE OF HUMANITY IS GOING TO BE SAVED.

The Socio-Political Change the WFF is aiming at:

Our Vision and Goal

- i To establish sustainable and eco-friendly fishing practices
- i To protect fishing communities and fish consumers.

In order to make this vision a reality a radical change in the ownership pattern is necessary:

The fishing resources in water bodies such as seas, lakes, rivers, lagoons, and reservoirs should be maintained and managed for the benefit of, and with the full participation of, the fishing communities that depend on them for their livelihood.

There should be no right to buy or sell these resources without the consent of the fishing communities involved.

The communities should own their fishing implements, and they should manage the sale, and distribution of all fish from the water resources in which they have an interest.

The Process of Struggle

Our Struggle is against all those people's institutions and gears, which have no regard for ecology, and sustainability and who exploit and displace fishing communities. They are:

1. The big factory ships, industrial aquaculture and polluting industries.
2. All the profiteering groups: including non-operators and merchants.
3. All destructive fishing gears.

The Process of building up (the TACT programme)

Togetherness:

All those who have a stake in fishing for livelihood (actual fishers and not those who only invest in fishing gears for profit) should come together. All those who are affected by factory trawlers, coastal industrial aquaculture, and coastal industries should be brought together.

Awareness:

Systematic education of the people about the evils of Globalisation / Liberalisation which has made them aliens in their own sphere.

Campaign:

This campaign has to begin in the local areas leading to national level and international level. However let us begin this at the local level. The problems and analysis of the local place and its implication at the national and international level should be drawn out.

Training:

Another process that should take place is that the fishing community should manage the fish resources, sale, and distribution.

The process of struggle and the process of building up go hand in hand. There is no blueprint of chronological order. These stages can be overlapping.

Our aim is to protect the fish resources, fishing communities, and the fish consumers. In order to achieve this, the problems of the local areas should be addressed. While tackling the problem of overcapacity, the smallest and the least that are fishing for his livelihood should never be disturbed. The top most capacity has to give way to the lesser ones and the process should continue till the level of sustainability is reached. This is not a matter of pity for the poor but it is a question of restoring Social Justice, which has been outraged by Globalisation and Liberalisation.

Victims of Globalisation- in general

The Third World, particularly India, is facing the worst situation. Instead of extending the labour laws to protect casual and seasonal workers, the IMF programme proposed "to help the poor" by scrapping the labour laws, because these laws were hindrances to development of the Globalisation model. The theory that no protection can be given to any section of producers if the economy has to show growth led to the cancellation of all subsidies to the farmers, handloom workers and others. This was known as Structural Adjustments. This resulted in mass suicide of farmers and handloom workers in India in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Because of the aggressive arrival MNCs and TNCs, more than 200,000 industrial units are sick, rendering lakhs of workers jobless. The Mega Dams alone has displaced 50 millions of tribals and dalits (formerly known as untouchable peoples) in India. Foreign goods, which are cheap, are allowed to flood the Indian Market and the Indian industries are facing a recession.

What has been done?

Baker Plan

In 1985, US Treasury Secretary James Baker promised US \$40 billion worth new loans, but only for the largest debtors. The most significant legacy of the Baker plan was the new lending but the stiff new Structural adjustment Program (SAPs) that were henceforth tied to new lending. The SAPs were literally a cure worse than the disease.

Brady Plan

The next significant development occurred in 1989 with the introduction of another plan, named after US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady. Unlike his predecessor, Brady

recognised that the external debts of the largest countries were unpayable. Accordingly, Brady proposed to reduce the debts owed by 39 countries by 20.5% over 3 years. The plan involved the writing down of some private bank debts and their conversion into tradable bonds, known as Brady Bonds.

Unfortunately, the Brady Plan did not address the needs of smaller, low-income countries that were too poor to qualify for many commercial loans. Nevertheless the Brady Plan did demonstrate the feasibility of debt remission. Human Development Report (1998) contends that political leadership is needed to restore the credibility of the debt relief initiative. In 1997, the group of seven countries responded to East Asia's crisis with extraordinary resolve, mobilising in a few months more than \$100 billion of loans. Equal resolve is now needed for finding the mere \$7 billion needed to implement the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC's). In the Great Jubilee Year 2000, a total redemption of Debt should be done with such political commitment. The pressure should come from all over the world.

What should be done?

Reduce the multilateral debts and debt service payments. Severely indebted low-income countries owed US \$ 6.3 billion to the World Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), at the end of 1991. This should be written off immediately. Severely indebted low-income group countries also owe US \$29.9 billion to the international Development Association (IDA), the Bank's soft loan affiliate. This also should be written off immediately. Selling off as much gold as was sold in 1976, equivalent to about one half of the IMF's remaining gold stocks, would be sufficient to cover the write off of all low income debts to the IMF. In addition, the Latin Americans suggest that the process of building a New Bretton Woods system begin with the democratisation of the functioning of the IMF and the World Bank. The so-called 'developed' countries now control 61-62% of the votes in these powerful institutions. A redistribution of voting power would be crucial for achieving SOCIAL JUSTICE at the global level.

An American View

David C. Korten, the author of "When Corporations Rule the World" and "The Post-Corporate World: Life After Capitalism," has written to me: "I've come to realise that we tend to use the word 'capital' very loosely—with devastating consequences. Basically, external capital flows to developing countries and translates into a transfer of foreign exchange, which by its nature is only useful in buying things from the countries that provide it, inherently creating dependence on their economies. Rarely are such financial flows actually invested in enhancing the productive capacity of the receiving country, and even when they are, it often involves inappropriate technology, such as the import of trawlers, and/or it establishes foreign ownership of the trawlers and de facto ownership of the fish they catch. In my experience, when foreigners send money, control invariably follows.

"Since I've come to really understand the reality of what we call 'capital' flows, I've been communicating the message that the people of the Third World are not poor because foreigners have not sent them enough foreign money. It is because foreigners have taken over control of too many of their resources. In the light of Human Development report 1997 I suggest the following policies,

- Empower individuals, households and communities to gain greater control over their lives and resources.
- Ensure food security for the poor.
- Ensure micro credit for the poor.
- Ensure education and health for all
- Build social safety nets.
- Strengthen gender equality.
- Do not deplete natural capital.
- Stop militarization and dismantle all atomic weapons.
- Stop displacing peoples in the name of development.
- Ensure the collaboration of all the Developed Nations to eradicate poverty.
- Ensure the participation of all peoples and all nations to reconstruct a New World.

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

There is a need for a global campaign to achieve the above. All over the world people must demand these. We need to organise in the line of Global peace march, peoples global action, WFF's campaign for the ownership of water bodies, fishing implements by the small fishing communities. Here information technology has to be used massively. All these different movements in the world must see that they work in a complementary manner.

There is a need to create a new paradigm of development and politics, in which all human beings have right to live, with equal access to the resources and opportunities. Development cannot be measured solely by the quantity of production, but by its sustainability by its capacity to protect the livelihood of all human beings. Production should be coupled with Distributive Justice. True Globalisation should make free movement of labour unhindered by national boundaries. The year 2000 should be a real jubilee year by letting nations feel true freedom and equality by unburdening them of their debt. Information technology should be made use for this campaign and change in the world. The general norm for social change has been 'Think Globally and Act Locally'. But in the context of Globalisation we need a new dictum - '**THINK GLOBALLY AND ACT GLOBALLY**'. To do this we must make use of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN A MASSIVE WAY.

TRUE DEVELOPMENT IS NOT BY CONQUERING AND ENSLAVING, NOT BY ACCUMULATING AND CENTRALIZING, NOT BY DISPLACING PEOPLES AND DESTROYING CULTURES. TRUE DEVELOPMENT IS ONLY BY INTEGRATING AND WORKING TOGETHER, THROUGH DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE AND DECENTRALIZATION BY NURTURING AND INCLUDING NATIVES, TRIBALS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

THE LIFE OF THE PLANET AND THE DEPENDENT HEALTH AND WELFARE OF HUMANITY MUST NOT BE SACRIFICED TO THE GREED OF THE FEW.

(Speech delivered at the International Seminar "CITIZENS AT CROSSROADS WHOSE INFORMATION SOCIETY?" on 21st October 1999. This was organised by THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO; Government of Canada's Department of Canadian Heritage and the Canadian International Department Agency.)
